

Kuwaiti leader visits Riyadh

RIYADH (AP) — Kuwaiti Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Abdullah Al Sabah arrived Saturday for a five-day official visit to the Saudi capital, Riyadh, for high-level coordination talks on Arab and regional issues. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are leading members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) which also includes Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates. A full GCC summit is scheduled in Bahrain Dec. 19-23. The two countries, according to official GCC statements, are seeking an Arab consensus on helping Lebanon out of its political crisis of rival governments. They also want to support the 11-month Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The visit of Saad, who is also prime minister, initially was scheduled for April but was postponed at the last minute when a Kuwait Airways jetliner was hijacked for 16 days by pro-Iranian fundamentalists. Prince Abdullah is deputy-premier to King Fahd and is also head of the paramilitary National Guard. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia were the prime target of Iranian threats over the eight years of the Iran-Iraq war. But since the Aug. 20 Gulf war ceasefire following by the U.N.-sponsored peace negotiations, Kuwait has been fast mending its fences with Tehran.

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Tunisia frees political detainees

TUNIS (R) — Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali pardoned scores of political prisoners, many of them Islamic militants released Saturday just before the first anniversary of his coming to power. The pardon covers 79 members of the militant Islamic Tendency Movement (MTI), nine leftists and 70 of the 183 people arrested in November 1987 and accused of plotting to overthrow the government, the official news agency TAP said. Ibn Ali has also released or reduced the sentences of 2,031 common criminals, it added. The aim of the amnesty was to "empty the prisons of political prisoners, strengthen national reconciliation... and allow everyone to contribute to building the new Tunisia," TAP said. MTI sources said they knew of only 45 of its members set free. These included 19 sentenced in September last year in connection with a plot to overthrow the state with alleged assistance from Iran. The TAP report did not give a detailed breakdown and it was impossible to calculate how many political prisoners remained in jail. The 70 pardoned members of the group arrested Nov. 8, 1987, the day after Ibn Ali removed ageing President Habib Bourguiba from power on grounds of senility, were found not to favour violence and not to have planned violent acts, TAP said.

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AROUND THE WORLD...

Chevenement visits Saudi Arabia

RIYADH (R) — French Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement arrived in Riyadh Saturday to discuss the French naval presence in the Gulf and possible arms deals with Saudi Arabia, diplomats said. Chevenement was due to hold talks with Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz and tour military facilities during his two-day official visit. Diplomats said he was likely to tell Saudi Arabia that France would keep warships in the Gulf until more progress was made in the Iran-Iraq peace talks.

Iranian minister visits Oman

BAHRAIN (R) — Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati arrived in Oman Saturday with a message from President Ali Khamenei for Sultan Qaboos bin Sa'id, the Oman News Agency reported. It quoted Besharati as saying the message related to regional issues but gave no details. Iran and Oman, on opposite sides of the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf, have good relations and frequently exchange ministerial visits.

Kidnappers force manager to rob bank

PLANTATION, Florida (R) — Two men kidnapped an assistant bank manager and his teenage son Friday, handcuffed a fake bomb to the man's wrist and forced him to rob his own bank, the man told police. The suspects fled without the money when police arrived, leaving Lloyd Smith in the parking lot of the Citizens and Southern Bank attached to a briefcase they had told him contained a bomb, according to police. Police freed the man from the briefcase, sprayed it with a water cannon and found no bomb inside. Vernon Smith, 18, was found handcuffed and unharmed in a nearby car, police said. A police spokesman in Plantation, a town of 1,000 people, said investigators believed the man's story but had taken him to police headquarters for further questioning.

Texas police search schools for guns

PORT ARTHUR, Texas (R) — A 10-year-old boy was in police custody Friday and an investigation into the shooting of a school bus driver turned up a third gun in two weeks at local schools. The boy, whose identity has not been released, was the only passenger on the bus when Russell Jean Hampton, 40, was found on Thursday shot in the back of the head. Hampton is in critical condition in hospital. Fontenot said witnesses saw the boy run from the scene and police found a .22 calibre pistol and his bicycle on the bus. The boy had not yet been charged and "even if I had a motive, I couldn't tell you," Fontenot said. Fontenot said locker searches were conducted at all Port Arthur schools after the shooting. One gun was found and a student suspended.

Mother Teresa on African tour

MAPUTO, Mozambique (AP) — Mother Teresa, on a tour of several African nations, met with high-ranking officials and planned to establish two charity missions in this war-torn country, the national news agency AIM reported Saturday. Mother Teresa, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, met with Foreign Minister Pascoal Mocumbi and Education Minister Graca Machi Friday, AIM said. She intends to establish Sisters of Charity missions in Maputo, the capital, and in the northern province of Nampula, AIM reported.

Alleged Zambia coup plotters named

LUSAKA (AP) — Zambian newspapers Saturday named eight people, including the former army commander, detained last month for allegedly plotting a coup. Lieutenant-General Christian Tembo, one-time military chief and more recently ambassador to West Germany, is being held with five fellow army officers and two civilians, according to a government gazette notice published in the press. The others named are Lt. Col. Chongo Shula, Major Nixone Zulu, Maj. Epyrius Mulenga, Captain Patrick Maimbolwa Lt. Bwizwayo Nkumika, Benjamin Yoram Mwila and Longwanzi Kachila. An initial terse announcement at the time said nine people were detained in connection with subversive activities.

China welcomes Uruguayan president

PEKING (R) — China's leader Saturday feted the president of Uruguay on his first visit here since his country recognised Peking and broke relations with Taipei. The New China News Agency quoted President Yang Shangkun as telling Julio Sanguinetti that China attached great importance to its ties with Uruguay and other Latin American countries. Uruguay's recognition of Peking in February left Taiwan with diplomatic relations with only 22 countries, many of them in Latin America, although it enjoys economic and trade relations with more than 100.

Walesa says he ready for talks

WARSAW (R) — Solidarity leader Lech Walesa accepted a government offer Saturday to meet Poland's interior minister to try to unblock stalled talks on the country's future. Walesa issued a statement saying the meeting must include discussion of all topics to be raised at the "round-table" talks, including re-legislation of his banned trade union — the key issue delaying talks. He said he and Czeslaw Kiszczak should also discuss a government decision to close the Lenin shipyard in Gdansk where Solidarity was born in 1980, adding that the union saw this move as blocking talks.

Blast kills 3 in Sri Lanka town

COLOMBO (R) — Three people, including a policeman and an Indian soldier, were killed when Tamil guerrillas set off a bomb near a police post in Sri Lanka's eastern province, military officials said Saturday. The officials said 10 policemen and four civilians were injured in the blast at Trincomalee town Friday. The bomb set off fires in some nearby shops. The rebels also detonated a bomb inside the town's magistrate's court, demolishing part of the building. There were no casualties, they said. Officials blamed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam for the attack.

France to lift Iranian embargo in full

PARIS (R) — France will soon completely lift an embargo on Iranian oil imports imposed when both countries broke off diplomatic ties last year, the daily Le Monde said Saturday. The newspaper said despite a government decision in August to ease the embargo by allowing barter deals between the two countries, "France has still not imported a single drop of Iranian oil." It said French government officials were unhappy with the current trade situation and a total lifting of the embargo was expected in the following weeks.

GCC businessmen visit Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — A party of Arab Gulf businessmen and contractors arrived in Iraq Saturday to explore ways to help the country's post-war reconstruction, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said. The 220-man team is from all six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Industry sources in Riyadh said the businessmen would study Iraqi laws during their five-day visit and ask to be treated like national companies taking part in rebuilding projects.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday addresses a meeting of the Higher Council for Science and Technology (Petra photo)

Crown Prince urges reliance on local potential and resources

By Caroline Faraj
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The new measures adopted in Jordan under the present economic situation require increased reliance on national potentials and the maximum exploitation of scientific resources and indigenous manpower, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Saturday.

"Jordan possesses a unique productive capacity and enjoys a central location within the Arab World and interacts with economic groups," Prince Hassan said at a meeting of the Higher Council of Science and Technology (HCST).

"The HCST has a significant role to play under the present economic circumstances to promote the concept of self-reliance through research and new ideas — a process which is bound to lead to the creation of further investments," the Crown Prince said. "The council is seen as a motivator to promote exports potentials which in turn can increase national income, improve the national balance of trade and open new employment opportunities," he said.

Prince Hassan urged departments of similar nature to launch closer cooperation at the public and private sector levels, stressing again the two basic axes — manpower and natural resources.

(Continued on page 5)

"Jordan has a rare opportunity to rise to the occasion between now and the end of the century and prove its capability of to fuse various sectors of development in order to achieve integration that can lead to the fulfilment of the aspired national goals," the Crown Prince said.

Prince Hassan, who heads the HCST, was addressing a meeting of the council's committee members and specialists who include representatives of institutions basically involved in the cultural and social development of Jordan.

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(Continued on page 5)

Iraq, Iran end a week of peace talks in stalemate

GENEVA (Agencies) — Iran and Iraq ended a week of Gulf peace talks in stalemate Saturday, failing to agree on a troop withdrawal or an exchange of prisoners of war (POWs).

"The two ministers have explained in detail their positions," U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar told reporters before leaving for New York.

"I would mislead you if I would tell you we have had fantastic progress," Perez de Cuellar made his remarks following a face-to-face meeting of the two ministers which he mediated, the third such session since the Gulf talks resumed last Monday. Perez de Cuellar then left Geneva for Paris, where he was to spend the night before returning to New York Sunday.

The talks were set to continue Monday with another face-to-face session of the two ministers, under the mediation of special U.N. representative Jan Eliasson. Perez de Cuellar said.

He said the current, third, round of talks would end by Nov. 16. The talks are aimed at consolidating the fragile truce that went into effect Aug. 20 after both sides accepted U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

"During the talks which have taken place over the last several days, I am pleased that we have had a reaffirmation of the commitment to the ceasefire," Perez de Cuellar said. "The political determination to abide by the ceasefire was very clear during the talks."

He described the atmosphere as "very agreeable" and said there had been no recriminations. During the six days of talks, the two sides spelled out their positions in detail, he said. But the two positions apparently remained far apart.

He said he hoped that "real, concrete progress" would be made during upcoming meetings under Eliasson's supervision.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati told reporters after the session that the question of troop withdrawals still posed a problem.

He reiterated the Iranian position that withdrawal of troops to "internationally recognised boundaries" should be the next step to follow the ceasefire. Iraq has demanded that the Shatt Al 'Arab waterway — its only outlet to the sea — be immediately cleared of the silt and other war debris that is blocking it and links this to a troop withdrawal.

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Ban on import of vehicles, luxury goods

• 3% levy on air tickets

• Departure fee, work permit fee raised

Cabinet announces new moves to save foreign currency

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Saturday announced a series of measures designed to bolster the national economy and preserve the Kingdom's foreign exchange reserves.

A statement issued after a regular cabinet session outlined the measures as under:

1) Imports of the following are banned from Nov. 6, 1988, until Dec. 31, 1989.

Vehicles used for transporting passengers and goods, television sets and aeriels, video sets and cameras, refrigerators and freezers, air conditioners, home furniture, kitchens, office furniture — with the exception of furniture used for medical clinics and veterinary and surgery purposes — chandeliers, microwave ovens, marble, tiles, granite, brick stone, and statues, ornaments, artificial flowers and artificial fruit used for decoration purposes.

All import licences for these products will be cancelled, except for those issued and for which letters of credit have been opened through banks and financial institutions; and

— those issued for the importation of goods which have been shipped against original bills of lading before Nov. 6, 1988.

Fees paid for the cancelled import licences will be reimbursed.

2) Customs fees will be increased on a number of consumer, and non-essential goods and luxury goods, with the purpose of limiting their importation, and

— those issued and for which letters of credit have been opened through banks and financial institutions; and

— those issued for the importation of goods which have been shipped against original bills of lading before Nov. 6, 1988.

Fees paid for the cancelled import licences will be reimbursed.

3) An increase in the annual fees levied on work permits issued to Arab and foreign workers employed in areas other than agriculture and nursing:

The fee for Arab workers will be JD 100 per head while it will be JD 300 for every non-Arab worker.

4) A 10 per cent reduction of electricity charges and a five-to-20 per cent reduction in water charges as of the beginning of November 1988;

5) Electricity peak hours for industry will be reduced to three hours a day.

The ministers of supply and industry and trade have been entrusted to conduct a study on the real cost of imported goods and locally produced commodities.

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— a 10 per cent tax will be levied on all bills of four-star restaurants and above;

— a three per cent increase on air tickets for travel abroad which are sold inside the Kingdom, and an increase in departure fees.

The new departure fees are: JD 25 per Jordanian passenger leaving by air; JD 8 by land or sea.

JD 15 per Jordanian passenger living in Arab countries leaving by air; JD 6 by land or sea.

JD 10 per non-Jordanian passenger leaving by air; JD 4 by land and JD 6 by sea.

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ites with a view to fixing their prices.

This study should be completed in the next few days.

According to the Cabinet statement, these instructions will be effective as of Nov. 6, 1988 and will last until Dec. 31, 1989.

The Cabinet's decision is expected to save some \$200 million in foreign currency in 1989. If the expected increase in exports is taken into consideration, the deficit in the annual budget will be considerably reduced.

The statement said that the levy on air tickets, and the increase in departure fees as well as work permit fees are bound to reduce the Kingdom's payments in foreign currency.

The statement said these measures were taken as complementary to those adopted for the purpose of rationalising and controlling public expenditure and the principles needed to work out the annual budget.

These measures, it said, were required to reduce the deficit in the budget and to help the country honour its financial commitments and service debts.

These measures, the statement added, were needed to help the general effort to improve the economic situation in the Kingdom and to stimulate potential and came in harmony with the national orientation towards taking Jordan from an inflated consumer stage to an investment, saving and production stage and help it to become self-dependent and end luxurious consumption which exerts pressure on the Kingdom's foreign currency revenues.

The political reforms are to be debated at an FLN congress Nov. 27-28 and later submitted to popular vote in another referendum.

"The president insisted on the importance he attaches to the coherent and organised pursuit of reforms currently in progress, notably regarding the autonomy of state enterprises, the reorganisation of supply and distribution, and the setting up of new financial and revenue instruments," the statement said.

The political reforms are to be debated at an FLN congress Nov. 27-28 and later submitted to popular vote in another referendum.

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Rising up to the elements: On the Kazan River....



...and by Angakuni Lake

Jordanian explorer ventures into the arctic

Into the land of the midnight sun

By Ghadeir Ghadeir
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — For the first time, a Jordanian youth participated in an adventurous trip to the Canadian Arctic as part of an international expedition for purposes of scientific research and community service.

Osama Abdeen, who participated in the trip along with 24 others from 11 different countries, describes the experience as "the chance of my lifetime" to represent Jordan in the expedition, which was conducted by the British-based international organization "Operation Raleigh."

"The motive for scientific research and community service was what motivated Abdeen to take part in the adventure. 'My goal was to show what young Jordanians could do,' Abdeen, 21, told the Jordan Times.

Participants were selected according to articles they wrote to qualify for the selection process, during which the 170 applicants were tested for their physical and team spirit under arctic conditions. They are also given a general idea about the expedition — a seven-week, 500-kilometre canoe venture down the Kazan River.

The team reached Canada on June 1, where they spent one month of scientific orientation and survival training between "Moorlands Camp" and Trent University in Ontario.

The training in Moorlands included canoeing — the general means of transportation down the Kazan River — and survival training in the wilderness, including the use of a compass and map.

In addition to the 24 adventurers, the team had eight other members — four scientists (two archaeologists, one plant ecologist, one ornithologist) and four group leaders, including a doctor.

Upon reaching the Tandra, by Angakuni Lake, members of the expedition split into four independent groups, each with six

venturers and two staff members. That enabled the groups to move more easily and cover larger areas in a shorter time period. Each group was responsible for four canoes.

"The sun set at midnight so we usually managed to paddle for a few hours, then camp and do some research," Abdeen explained.

During the journey down the Kazan River, members of the expedition conducted a lot of scientific research, mainly a vegetation study. "We took samples from trees using the coring method so as to identify tree lines," Abdeen said.

Sampling the trees enabled the expedition members to know more about the age structure of trees in that distant part of the globe.

"Our archaeological research concentrated on the study of earlier Eskimos. We examined their meat caches, tent rings, artifacts and graves," Abdeen explains.

Abdeen said expedition members spotted a herd of 20,000 caribou, five wolves and three foxes. "Of course we weren't allowed to hunt because that would contradict our scientific mission to study and preserve nature. Nevertheless, we survived on the fish that we caught fresh from the river in addition to the dry foods we brought with us like meat and pasta.

Recounting the hardships the team faced, Abdeen said: "We had to do a lot of carrying — our gear and canoes because of the white waters and rapids. In another incident, a tent was blown away but we managed to retrieve it. We were wind-bound three times and couldn't continue our journey because of the very

strong wind."

It was summer, and that made things easier. It rained, but it did not snow. Temperatures ranged from 18 degrees Celsius to minus three degrees within 24 hours, but the average daily high was 16 degrees.

Final Point

On Aug. 18, the team reached its destination: a small Eskimo village called Baker. Supported by the Canadian government, the

1,000-villagers depend on hunting wild animals for food and clothing.

"The villagers were very kind and generous. They introduced us to their culture and daily activities. During our seven-day stay in that village, we constructed a playground as our community service project," Abdeen said.

"When we returned to Toronto, we held a press conference to talk about the challenge of man against powerful nature. We had gone back to the very basic human needs — food, warmth and shelter," he recalled.

Abdeen said the experience was "invaluable" and that it gave them more confidence in man's ability to survive despite hardships.

"It strengthened our belief in group work, and made us realize that one cannot survive alone in such tough conditions. Personally, I expressed my gratitude for having had the honour of representing Jordan in such a unique achievement," he said proudly.

The search for knowledge: Learning what to look for and how to excavate at an archaeological training camp

work at the main theatre at Petra, in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities of Jordan. From 1963 until the 1967 war, he conducted research and excavations at El Khalil (Hebron) on the West Bank. In 1973, he returned to Petra to begin the present series of excavations. Professor Hammond is the author of a number of books, monographs, and articles dealing with the Nabataeans, their history, culture, and archaeology.

The senior staff of the expedition included Dr. Hammond, as Director; Dr. David J. Johnson, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Brigham Young University; Assistant to the Director; Amy Strand, Chief of Registration; Norman Stark, Geologist; Robin Acorn, Camp Manager; Stanford Acorn, Surveyor/Photographer; Keith Russell, Area Supervisor; Dr. Gerald Johnson, Professor of Civil and Mineral Engineering of the University of Minnesota; and Evan Johnson, Video Photographers.

Participating in the expedition were: Senator and Mrs. Hal Zimmerman of the State of Washington; Robert Bozadahl, Debbie Reiss, and Kay Sellers (University of Utah); Kathleen Callister, Michael Slaughter, and Angela Piederer (Brigham Young University); Stephanie Daw, Petra Duffett, Stacy Lundgren, Valerie King, Alexandra Kincannon (St. John's College); Donald Mitchell, Eric Parker (Indiana University); and Alyson Sholtz. The Representative of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan to the expedition was Mr. Suleiman Farajit, inspector of Petra.

Facilitating the work of the expedition were H.M. King Hussein, the Royal Jordanian Airline (Mr. Al Ghadour, President and Chairman of the Board), Mr. Munib Touqan (V.P. for Public Relations, the Royal Jordanian Airline), the Middle East Centre (the University of Utah), the Tyche Hotel (Amman) and the Petra Forum Hotel (Wadi Musa), and the Department of Antiquities of Jordan (Dr. Adnan Hadidi, former Director).

Sponsorship of the expedition was through the financial assistance of Senator and Mrs. Hal Zimmerman, Dr. David J. Johnson, Dr. Philip C. Hammond, with the associated participation of Brigham Young University (Provo, Utah).

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Facilitating the work of the expedition were H.M. King Hussein, the Royal Jordanian Airline (Mr. Al Ghadour, President and Chairman of the Board), Mr. Munib Touqan (V.P. for Public Relations, the Royal Jordanian Airline), the Middle East Centre (the University of Utah), the Tyche Hotel (Amman) and the Petra Forum Hotel (Wadi Musa), and the Department of Antiquities of Jordan (Dr. Adnan Hadidi, former Director).

Sponsorship of the expedition was through the financial assistance of Senator and Mrs. Hal Zimmerman, Dr. David J. Johnson, Dr. Philip C. Hammond, with the associated participation of Brigham Young University (Provo, Utah).

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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PRAYER TIMES

06:34 Fair

06:52 (Summer) Doha

11:19 Dhuhr

14:20 'Asr

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22:00 Bangkok (RJ)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Khalid Qader Al-Lah: 596046

Dr. Khalid Madi: 742501

Dr. Waleed Al-Masri: 672545

Dr. Sami Hammad: 624930

Firas pharmacy: 667512

Ferdous pharmacy: 78339

Al Anzaki pharmacy: 631055

Natash pharmacy: 622672

Al Salam pharmacy: 636730

Yaoum pharmacy: 644645

Shimam pharmacy: 637660

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PRAYER TIMES

06:34 Fair

New office to crack down on profiteering traders

AMMAN (R) — Jordan opened a special office Saturday to crack down on profiteering businessmen exploiting the drop in the value of the dinar.

Interior Minister Raja'i Dajani said it would tackle complaints about traders who increased prices for goods in stock before the currency's decline or who hoarded goods to sell them at a higher price later.

"The office in cooperation with the Ministry of Supply will check the citizens' petitions by visiting stores in question. If proven guilty, a summons order would be issued to transfer the violators to the military prosecutor for legal action," the minister said.

Offenders face a fine of JD 5 to JD 200 (\$10 to 440) or a jail term of one week to one year, or both.

Newspapers have regularly accused traders and industrialists of abusing what they call the current instability in the market to profit at the expense of the consumer.

Some car dealers, computer salesmen and shops selling luxury items say prices have risen by nearly 30 per cent since October.

In a bid to stabilise the prices of imported goods, the Finance Ministry has set fixed exchange rates to be used only for calculating tariffs on imports.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, who is also the country's military governor, has decided to transfer several cases against alleged cheats to military courts, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. It did not say how many were involved.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

ROYAL DECREE: A royal decree has been issued endorsing the law of the Jordan Investment Institution. The law provides for forming a board of directors that shoulders the responsibility of formulating and implementing the institution's policy (Petra).

HAMMOURI RECEIVES ENVOY: Minister of Culture and National Heritage Mohammad Hammouri held a meeting Saturday with Tunisian Ambassador in Jordan Mohammad Al Habib and discussed cultural relations between the two countries (Petra).

REMOTE SENSING UNIT: A general meeting was held at the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre in Amman Saturday to discuss steps taken to establish a remote sensing unit at the centre. The meeting which was attended by the centre's officials reviewed a number of offers by various friendly nations to contribute to the project (Petra).

RAWABDEN OPENS SEMINAR: Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabden Saturday opened a training seminar for 17 of the municipality's employees designed to orient them on their different tasks, municipal laws and other skills required to carry out their duties (Petra).

EXHIBITION ON T.S. ELIOT: University of Jordan Acting President Dr. Mahmoud Al Samra Sunday will visit an exhibition at the University of Jordan commemorating the centennial of British Poet T.S. Eliot. The exhibition demonstrates Eliot's life and literary works (Petra).

MAFRAQ COMPLEX: The Ministry of Public Works and Housing have begun the second stage of the public works complex in Mafraq Governorate which includes administrative offices, workshops, and laboratories at the cost of JD 190,000 (Petra).

JD 1M. PROJECTS IN ZARQA: The Zarqa Works Department has accomplished a number of projects at a cost of one million dinars. These projects include the completion and asphaltting of a number of roads in the Zarqa Governorate (Petra).

AID FOR SUDAN: The local committee for solidarity with the Sudanese People in Ajloun district Saturday held a meeting and reviewed the activities of the sub-committees in the various parts of the district. The committee decided to expand the duration of the committee's activities until the end of November and to open an account with the Housing Bank so as to enable the citizens to give their donations to the Sudanese people at the bank (Petra).

SUKHNEH ELECTIONS: Municipal elections will be held on Nov. 17 at the town of Sukhneh near Zarqa. A municipality spokesman said Saturday that a total of 1,210 citizens are eligible to vote (Petra).

JD 140,000 SPENT IN SHOBAK: Shobak municipality spent JD 140,000 on services projects during 1988, according to Shobak's mayor. He said work is now underway on the second stage of a public garden which is expected to cost JD 10,000.

HASHISH CONVICTION: The military court has sentenced Mohammad Ahmad Khalil to one year of imprisonment for possessing hashish. The military governor endorsed the sentence (Petra).

Hamzeh leaves for Libya

By Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh left Saturday for Tripoli on a five-day official visit to Libya at the invitation of his Libyan counterpart for discussions on bilateral cooperation in medical affairs.

Hamzeh was expected to discuss the employment of Jordanian doctors and pharmacists as well as paramedics in Libyan hospitals and health centres, according to Jordan News Agency, Petra.

A Libyan medical team which visited Jordan in April this year toured Jordanian medical institutions and held talks with Hamzeh and other officials on means of benefiting from Jordan's expertise and experience in medical affairs.

The team members said Libya

planned to bring in Arab experts and technicians in medical services to replace all foreigners working in that field and for this reason has already concluded contracts with 70 Jordanian doctors to work in Libyan hospitals.

Jordanians selected to work in Libya included specialists in gynaecology, paediatrics, internal medicine, X-Ray, anaesthetics and surgery.

According to the team an additional 80 specialists and general practitioners from Jordan could be employed in Libya at a later stage.

Hamzeh has earlier said he was trying to help Jordanian doctors to find employment in Arab countries in addition to Libya and North Yemen which recently drew up contracts with Jordanian medical staff following Hamzeh's visit to Sana'a.



Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi Saturday receives Iraqi Ministry of Education team currently visiting Jordan (Petra photo)

Hindawi briefs Iraqi delegation on Jordan's achievements in education

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi received in his office Saturday a delegation representing the Iraqi Ministry of Education which is currently on a tour of Jordanian educational institutions.

Hindawi briefed the visitors on Jordan's educational plans and past achievements, as well as current arrangements to implement the resolutions of the first national educational conference held in Jordan last year.

The delegation members briefed Hindawi on the Iraqi Ministry of Education's programmes and came to an agreement with the minister to coordinate efforts in education.

On Friday evening Hindawi opened a six-week training course on school health services which is organised by the Jordanian Medical Association (JMA).

In a speech at the opening session, held at the Professional Association Complex, the minister said: "Health services form an integral part of the on going process of overhauling the educational system, in implementation of last year's conference."

"The educational process should be comprehensive and should help provide educational and health services to the children, to build up sound bodies and sound thinking, and provide good education to the new generation," the minister noted.

JMA President Mamdouh

Abbadi delivered a speech at the meeting underlining the importance of health services at school and the current training course which would enable doctors to offer a good service.

Each school and community college in Jordan will be supervised by a doctor in implementation of a decision by the Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Abbadi said.

A total of 90 general practitioners are taking part in the training course which will focus on dealing with diseases that mostly affect children.

COMPUTER COURSE: A seven-day training programme on the "financial analysis through the use of the computer" Saturday began at the Jordan Management Institute. The programme was attended by a number of bank employees in addition to employees of investment, industrial, and services companies (Petra).

Seminar to discuss development in Ma'an, Karak and Tafileh

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two-day seminar to discuss the achievements of development councils in the governorates of Ma'an, Karak and Tafileh will open at Mu'ta University near Karak Sunday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The meetings will witness the formation of six sectoral committees which will tackle different aspects of development, and development problems in the three governorates lying in the southern part of Jordan.

Councils from the three governorates have prepared working papers covering general develop-

ment issues in each region in addition to joint papers tackling common projects, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The agency said that the papers present a general review of the social conditions in the south and the role of Mu'ta University and other educational institutions in developing it, the role of voluntary and social organisations and their contributions to the local communities, the agricultural situation and expansions in fruit tree plantations, animal husbandry and needs of farmers.

In addition, the meetings will discuss mining and industry,

transport, development of tourist centres, Aqaba Railway development, Aqaba airport and transit and transport facilities within the governorates, specially in Aqaba.

Development councils in the Amman, Balqa and Zarqa governorates held a three-day seminar last month to discuss similar projects and means of promoting the development process in their respective regions. The meetings which were held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan issued recommendations which were regarded as guidelines for the municipalities in the three regions.

Tabbaa: 300 firms took part in Baghdad fair

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbaa said Saturday that the Jordanian pavilion at the Baghdad International Trade Fair is currently displaying samples of products manufactured by 300 Jordanian firms.

The pavilion is being visited by enormous numbers of Iraqi and Arab businessmen and officials, most of whom draw up contracts for the purchase of Jordanian commodities, Tabbaa said in a statement upon returning here

from Baghdad.

The minister took part in celebrations marking the fair's 25th anniversary and the opening of the Jordanian pavilion earlier this month.

Products ranging from furniture to children's toys are on display at the fair which this year witnesses the participation of the greatest number of Jordanian firms, the minister added.

While the Baghdad, the minister met a number of Iraqi officials to discuss bilateral cooperation.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, Friday reported that at least 500,000 citizens visited the Jordanian pavilion in a matter of three days.

Tabbaa met upon his returning here with French ambassador to Jordan Patrick Leclercq with whom he discussed French-Jordanian cooperation in economic fields. Petra said they examined ways to increase the volume of trade between the two countries and prospects for joint economic ventures.

Jordan and Cyprus discuss cooperation in trade, tourism

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's participation in an international trade fair to be held in Cyprus in May 1989 was among different topics discussed here between Cyprus Minister of Industry and Trade Takis Nimitis and his Jordanian counterpart Hamdi Tabbaa.

"Jordan's participation in the fair will be a good opportunity for promoting the marketing of its national products and a good chance for stimulating the tourism industry," the Cypriot Minister said following the meeting which was held during his stop in Amman for one day en route to

Baghdad. He said the talks with Tabbaa and Minister of Tourism Zuhair Ajlouni later on covered bilateral cooperation in the fields of economic and tourism.

The talks also dwelt on the prospect of concluding a bilateral trade agreement, and a joint committee has been set up to study the subject, the minister added.

He said that a Cypriot economic delegation will visit Amman in the first half of 1989 to discuss the prospect of joint industrial ventures.

On tourism, he said, there was

a prospect of concluding a deal whereby tourist groups arriving in the island would come to Jordan within a package tour programme.

Referring to his country's economic development, he said, Cyprus is open to foreign investors who are offered incentives and exemptions from taxes.

Cyprus also welcomes projects that entail the transfer of modern technology to the country.

He said his country was keen on bolstering its relations with Jordan in economic, tourist and other fields.

Seminar for industrial instructors opens

AMMAN (Petra) — A week-long training seminar for industrial instructors opened in Amman Saturday.

Altogether 20 instructors employed by the Vocational Train-

ing Corporation are attending the course which will orient them on up-to-date methods in training improving work conditions, dealing with occupational injuries and handling problems impeding the progress of training.

The VTC director general delivered a speech in which he said the corporation is in the process of setting up seven new vocational training centres for men and women in addition to the existing 11 centres in the country.

13 post offices start facsimile service

AMMAN (Petra) — Facsimile services Saturday went into operation in 13 Jordanian post offices, enabling citizens to send written messages to any destination inside the Kingdom and to the outside world.

The announcement was made by the Post Office and Postal Savings Corporation Director General Ghazi Rifai who said that the new service enables citizens to communicate with others and with people abroad in a matter of seconds.

A person wishing to benefit from this service should present the written message to the post office in his city or town which can channel it to another post office in another Jordanian city, Rifai explained.

To date messages had been sent to different parts of the world through privately-owned facsimile machines installed at several organisations but when the post office is conducting this service the sender should provide the name and address to the post office official.

Agreement will soon be made with post office in other countries to arrange for their receiving facsimile messages from Jordanian post offices and forwarding them to their destination, Rifai added. According to Rifai charges for

this services have been worked out in cooperation with other concerned government departments and approved by the council of ministers.

He said that the rate differs in accordance with the following five groups: First group for messages within the same governorate; second group for those between different governorates; third group between Jordan and Arab countries; fourth group between Jordan and Europe and the fifth group defines charges between Jordan and the rest of the world including Asia, Africa,

North and South America and Australia.

According to Rifai, there will be a charge for the distribution of messages received by the post offices at the following rates: 300 fils per message if received from inside the Kingdom and 500 fils if received from abroad.

He said that the recipient will be charged with the service fees against a receipt if he accepts the message, otherwise it will be wasted or kept in the post office files.

Rifai said that facsimile machines have been installed at the following post offices: Central Post Office Amman, Jordan Intercontinental Hotel Post Office, Al Wihdat Post Office, Sahab Industrial City Post Office, Salt Central Post Office, Zarqa Central Post Office.

The rates will be according to the following table:

Group	First page and address	Every other page or part of it
First	500 fils	250 fils
Second	750 fils	250 fils
Third	JD 3	JD 1
Fourth	JD 5	JD 2.5
Fifth	JD 6.5	JD 2.5



PRINCESS Majida Ra'd Saturday opened an exhibition of artificial trees whose proceeds will benefit the Al Hussein Society for the Physically Handicapped. The exhibition will remain open for a week. The picture shows Princess Majida inspecting one of the artificial trees (Petra photo)

'Arabs must form economic blocs'

AMMAN (Petra) — A committee grouping deputy representatives of Arab countries at the Amman-based Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) opened a two-day meeting here to discuss a number of memoranda on joint Arab economic action and review a report by the CAEU's secretary general on past achievements.

The secretary general Hassan Ibrahim told the opening session there was need for a revision of

national economic policies in the Arab World with a view to making economic development patterns effective and fruitful.

There is need for the formation of economic blocs within the Arab World similar to those being formed in other parts of the world with the aim of dealing collectively with economic problems, Ibrahim told the meeting.

Ibrahim said that Arab countries suffer from the adverse effects of world economic condi-

tions and face a reduction in revenues and a mounting external debt which calls for a revision of internal economic policies.

The CAEU, he said, represents an important support for all economic ventures in the Arab World and therefore Arab countries are invited to back the council's programmes.

On the committee are delegates representing Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Sudan, Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Kuwait, Libya and North Yemen.



Deputy Representatives of Arab countries at the Council of Arab Economic Unity Saturday open a two-day meeting in Amman (Petra photo)

U.K. college of surgeons, university discuss holding exams in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting attended by officials from the British Royal College of Surgeons (RCS) and the University of Jordan has been held at the University of Jordan. The meeting was headed on the University of Jordan side by Uni-

versity Vice President Dr. Basam Abu Ghazalah and on the RCS side by RCS Head Professor Ian Todd.

During the meeting, they discussed the possibility of holding RCS examinations in Jordan. University of Jordan Acting

President Dr. Mahmoud Al Samra also conferred with Professor Todd and welcomed the holding of the examinations in Jordan as being highly important for doctors in Jordan and the Arab World (Petra).

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

ART EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Ahmed Na'wash at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ A plastic art exhibition by Iyad Al Masri at the Housing Bank Complex.

OTHER EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Islamic book exhibition at the Islamic Cultural Centre for Men in Karak.
- ★ A library cultural festival at the public library in the Municipality Building of Kufranfeh, Ajloun.
- ★ A book exhibition that includes books on medicine, engineering, basic sciences, computer science, management and economics at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ A book exhibition that includes scientific and literary books at the Jordan University of Science and Technology.
- ★ A literary exhibition held on the occasion of the centennial birthday of the British poet T.S. Eliot at the Exhibition Hall, the University of Jordan.

Jordan Times

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The telling posture

THE United States' vote Thursday of the U.N. General Assembly resolution condemning Israel's actions in the West Bank and Gaza reminds us that American policy in the region continues to reflect the intellectual posture of the fellow who waves a sword with one hand and an olive branch with the other.

The American government's view that the resolution is "imbalanced," and that it condemns only one of the parties, is spurious, for that party, Israel, is occupying another people's land by force and by the strength of nearly four billion dollars of American direct and indirect support every year. The imbalance at the root of the Palestinian-Zionist conflict is in large part due to the American policy of giving more weight to Israeli rights than to Arab and Palestinian rights — despite the pleasant sounding rhetoric we hear from the American representative at the U.N. American policy — judged by actions, not words — would suggest that the United States fundamentally supports the reality of Israel's actions on the ground and of its diplomatic position, while it supports the concept of Palestinian and Arab rights only rhetorically.

When the American representative says that "we grieve for the loss on both sides," we feel obliged to respond that we do not believe him; for the actions of his government indicate that the grieving in Washington is very much more for Israelis than for Palestinians and other Arabs. It is a reflection of the status quo that the United States can maintain its pro-Israeli policies while shamelessly offering false and unsubstantiated rhetoric that attempt to make the U.S. appear to be an impartial and morally guided party.

We are used to Washington's intemperate, biased policy in the region; we only wish American officials would spare us the insult — and themselves the ignominy — of spewing forth vulgar rhetoric that purports to convey a position of moral balance.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

ALL three Arabic language newspapers Saturday attacked Washington's negative vote at the U.N. General Assembly session on a resolution deploring Israel's actions and malpractices in the occupied Arab territory.

Al Ra'i daily said that Washington's backing for Israel's aggression was a form of hostility towards the peace process, and has proved once again that the Americans are in collusion with the Israelis against the Palestinian people and their rights. Washington's support for aggression is a true interpretation of United States strategy in the Middle East, and one that calls on the Arabs to take an appropriate measure represented in a unified stand for a unified action, the paper noted. It said that 130 countries supported the U.N. resolution that condemned Israel's inhuman practices in the occupied Arab lands, calling on the occupation authorities to abide by U.N. principles and laws and to safeguard the rights of the Palestinians. But, it added, the U.S. and Israel cast the negative votes as usual, proving once again that they are against the peace process and making it clear for the Arabs that they have only one road open to them, that of struggle until peace is re-established. The Arabs, the paper said, should not only wait for the proposed international conference to convene, but should work in concert and in unity to regain their rights and to bring about peace to their region.

For its part, Al Dustour described Washington's vote against the U.N. General Assembly resolution as a manifestation of lack of justice in America's concept on all matters involving Israel, even if these matters are related to human rights. The whole world has come to realise the facts about the situation in the occupied Arab territories, and for this reason, the whole world has condemned Israel's practices against the civilian population of Palestine except of course for Israel and the United States, the paper noted. The favourable resolution which condemned Israel's actions was a political gain for the stone-throwers and the oppressed people who are trying to regain their freedom, the paper added. It said the condemnation of Israel's killing of Arabs and its acts of deportation and detention of innocent civilians serve as a warning for the uprising in the occupied lands. We are encouraged by this U.N. gesture, said the paper, and can only hope that the Security Council will take a similar step not only to condemn the Israeli actions but also to implement its own resolutions concerning the Palestinian people and their legitimate rights.



Walced — Al Dustour

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Exposed

A columnist in Al Dustour newspaper tackles the atrocities committed by the Tehran regime against the Iranian people in the light of recent revelations about the physical liquidation of opposition groups in that country. Mu'nes Al Razaz says Iran which is striving hard to present a bright image about itself to the outside world has overlooked or is still ignorant of the facts about modern mass media and development in means of communication and their power to expose situations to the world. The modern means of mass communication have succeeded in exposing Israel and South Africa for their inhuman practices and continue to focus the world public attention on any abuse of human rights in any part of the world, the writer says. What is more, human rights organisations are active nowadays and increasing in number, and they are bent on discovering and conveying to the world all forms of injustice and all sorts of repression being exercised against the oppressed people, the writer adds. Time, he concludes, is on the side of the oppressed peoples and on the side of freedom and democracy and is therefore against those who perpetrate and do injustice to others.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

No more short term solutions

DURING the oil boom era 1974-1982, foreign exchange was pouring into the country through generous Arab financial aid and huge remittances from rapidly growing number of expatriates in the Gulf. At that time, the economic and political error was the extensive external borrowing, which resulted in a heavy debt burden. The servicing of this debt is currently costing some JD 400 million a year, at least half of this is payable in foreign currencies. Thus, debt service became one of the major reasons which led us to the financial crisis we are facing today.

At that time, I was warning against indulgence in external debt and big budget deficits. But the Central Bank did not see anything in my warnings except a shaking of public confidence, hurting the reputation of the country and at times outright urging of foreign banks to refrain from or reduce their lending to Jordan.

The policy of the Central Bank during the late 1970s and early '80s was to provide the government, the easy way, with all its needs of funds, either by calling on Paris or London bankers, or by issuing further overdraft facilities from the Central Bank itself. Every means was used to raise easy money to accommodate the Ministry of Finance, instead of improving domestic revenues and reducing public expenditure. The monetary authorities were keen

about obtaining a four year grace period in the loan agreements, so that the burden of repayments may be deferred to future years. This would allow more time, and more accumulation of the problem.

We are now paying a heavy price for that imprudent and irresponsible policy. It is meaningless to advance more warnings now, because the danger has become more obvious. Instead I would like to warn in advance of another possible error, which is as tempting now as borrowing was during the boom years — subsidies.

As the exchange rate of foreign currencies against the dinar rose by some 17 per cent last month, it is inevitable that the prices of imported commodities will rise accordingly. This will no doubt subject the government to mounting pressure to subsidise some imported commodities, either directly through the Ministry of Supplies or indirectly by asking the Central Bank to provide cheap foreign exchange to cover letters of credit to import certain commodities.

Subsidies normally start with bread, sugar, rice, meat and milk, then they reach fuel, paper and medicines, finally they end up with raw materials and spare parts. The result is that the budget

will be burdened by part of the cost of these subsidies while the other part will be buried in the profit and loss account of the Central Bank, if it started to provide foreign exchange at preferential prices to cover the importation of certain commodities because they are essential socially, strategically or otherwise. Subsidies, direct or indirect, start small and then grow out of control into a politically untouchable burden on future administrations. This policy amounts to negating the economic measures of adjustment, and turn them into mere distortions. They render solutions practically impossible.

It is important that we face up to our difficulties by real and not artificial solutions. We should not be tempted into easy short term solutions, which may endanger the very security of the country in the longer term. If we have to support the cost of living of low income groups there should be a limit that must not be exceeded. That limit or price floor must be the actual cost of the concerned commodity or service. The reduction of the price below actual cost is a bribe, a distortion, a waste of resources and an error which responsible decision-makers should refrain from committing, unless we want to repeat the previous error of extensive external borrowing, and the dangers that go with it.

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Jordan, Saudi Arabia help Danish Muslim community

COPENHAGEN, (INA) — The Islamic community in Denmark has praised the efforts made by the people and governments of Jordan and Saudi Arabia for their assistance. There are 350,000 Muslims in Denmark.

The community has also expressed its appreciation for the Islamic drive in Denmark under the auspices of Al Aqsa school, established by the Jordanian community. The school teaches the basic tenets of Islam and principles of Islamic Shariah to the children of Muslims in the country. More importantly it has arrangements to teach Arabic so that the new generation of Muslims may not be alienated from their Islamic traditions in a foreign country.

The administrative head of the Al Aqsa school, Abdullah Subeichi, said members of the community have declared their support to the uprising of their brethren in the occupied Arab territories against the Israeli authorities' repressive measures. The members of the Islamic community in Denmark are playing an important role in exposing Israel's barbaric practices to Danish public opinion, he added.

Subeichi called upon other Islamic communities abroad to extend their support to Arab citizens' resistance in the occupied territories. Their material and moral support would raise the morale of the freedom fighters suffering under the yoke of

Israeli occupation, he said.

He said the Jordanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, and Ministry of Education, have been giving financial and other material help to the Islamic community and the Al Aqsa school.

The Ministry of Education has decided to recognise the certificates given by the school as the system of education followed in Jordan, he disclosed.

As for the assistance given by Saudi Arabia, Subeichi said the Saudi government and the Muslim World League have been offering financial and moral support to the Islamic community in Denmark through Islamic and mosque centres. They are planning construction of a mosque in the near future, he disclosed.

Subeichi said the MWL gives financial aid to cover half of the community's deficit. The remaining half has been covered by the aid given by other Islamic countries.

In a press interview, Subeichi called upon all Muslim and Arab countries to provide aid for completing the construction of the Islamic centre which would be a source of pride for the Muslims. He said the centre would not only teach Islam but would also attract a good number of non-Muslims to embrace Islam.

The Islamic community in Denmark comprises Turks, Yugoslavs, Pakistanis and Arabs. Many citizens of Denmark have been

embracing Islam either through contacts with Muslims or through marriages between young Muslim men and Danish girls who eventually embrace Islam.

Subeichi said members of the community carry out their religious duties in certain houses or at other meeting places. This situation creates great difficulties. Therefore they are trying to build mosques in different localities. They are also trying to build schools for the specific purpose or providing an Islamic education to their children because they are likely to lose their Islamic identity if no arrangements are made to impart Islamic education and values.

The importance of this matter cannot be overemphasised. For these young children always find themselves exposed to unchecked freedom. In order to save their Islamic identity and equip them with the Islamic teaching, it is imperative that Islamic schools be built and arrangements provided for teaching the Holy Koran, Islamic history, Islamic heritage and the Arabic language.

Subeichi said the Aqsa school was established 10 years ago. It has helped in bringing out a new generation, well educated and trained in Islamic virtues. This generation can resist the onslaught of anti-Islamic trends.

A mosque has been built alongside the school for prayers and especially for Friday congregations.

Subeichi said the school, in cooperation with the MWL, has been able to cement ties between Arab and non-Arab communities like Turks, Yugoslavs, Pakistanis and Danish Muslims. Books on Islamic Shariah have been translated into their languages.

He said Islamic communities have opened special bureaus of marriages, divorce and other matters related to Islamic Shariah.

A plot of land has been purchased for building a graveyard for Muslims, he added.

He said the Islamic cultural centre would invite Imams and recluses for Ramadan and other Muslim occasions for the benefit of Muslims in Denmark. Arrangements have been made for building special shops for selling meat slaughtered as required by Islam. Arrangements have also been made to keep an eye on slaughter houses in order to ensure that the meat exported to Islamic countries does not violate Islamic injunctions.

Subeichi said the Islamic communities in Denmark organise travel arrangements for the pilgrimage and Umra in cooperation with Saudi and other Islamic authorities.

He called on the Muslim diplomatic missions in Denmark to extend generous donations for building an Islamic centre and a mosque so that Muslim communities may live their life in an Islamic way.

at capital punishment in Turkey. "But to this day I have not received one single petition to spare the life of a common criminal. All petitions were in the name of political criminals and, without exception, leftists."

"I believe the West is more interested in people's politics than their lives," he added.

"My opinion is that political convicts are more to blame than ordinary criminals because their target is the state. The state should also have a means of self-defence," he said.

A total of 137 of the 220 death row prisoners were convicted of trying to alter the established order of the state and all but one were found guilty of politically-motivated killings.

Most of them are extreme leftists, including members of the autonomy-seeking Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK). Only 20 of the 137 are rightists.

"If illegal organisations can pass death sentences and successfully execute them, should the state be criticised for a reluctance to abolish capital punishment?" Pehlivanli asked.

He was referring to the Istanbul shooting of an army officer on October 22. The killing was claimed by the PKK which accused Major Oktay Yildiran of torturing Kurdish prisoners in 1983.

There are more than 100 death sentences either pending higher court approval or being sought by prosecutors for militants on the right and left.

Asked if he believed abolition of capital punishment would improve Turkey's chances with the EC, Pehlivanli said: "It may remove one objection, but if the West does not want to accept Turkey it can always find other reasons."

ADC condemns rise in vandalism against Islamic, Jewish institutions

The following is a statement by Abdeen Jabara, president of the Washington-based American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee on recent racial violence in the U.S.

THE PAST several weeks have seen an alarming increase in acts of vandalism directed against mosques and synagogues in Dallas, the Virginia suburbs of Washington, DC and in New York City. On Oct. 8 vandals shot out the windows and spray painted Nazi and anti-Islamic slogans on a Jewish temple, a community centre and a mosque in Dallas, Texas. Similar acts were recently committed against Jewish places of worship in Virginia only one week ago and recently vandals burned sacred religious material in a synagogue in Brooklyn, NY.

ADC is outraged by these horrendous acts of bigotry that underscores the continued existence of a virulent religious intolerance in America that threatens all of us regardless of our particular faith. It is essential

that the Christian, Islamic and Jewish leadership of the United States form a united front to condemn and work against such outrages. We call upon law enforcement agencies throughout the country to spare no effort in apprehending those responsible for the violence of the past few weeks. The new legislation making such attacks a federal criminal offence should provide federal authorities with an effective tool with which to vigorously prosecute such offenders and is so doing deliver a message that such acts have no place in America.

If the United States is to live up to its ideals of religious and racial tolerance and pluralism then it is incumbent upon all of us to ensure that those who would threaten the welfare of religious institutions in the United States are isolated from the fabric of our society. A nation already suffering from the tension caused by a rise in racial violence against Black Americans can ill afford to tolerate the growth of religious bigotry as well.

OPEN FORUM

Neglect

Two youths got killed today by plastic bullets. Tell me: who cared? And a third, a baby, died from tear gas he had inhaled.

We're shocked. No one did anything. Since they started their death crusade: Blood of the old, the young and the innocent For eleven months. To Heaven we bade.

A whale died! The U.S. cried. The Russians quickly hurried to their aid. Why? Two more would die! For the beast, they are all concerned! Ha...Ha...Ha...

And the youth who got shot in the head. You save a beast from dying? You don't care about the dying and the dead. They are suffering, suffocating! Could you for once towards us turn your head?!

Mothers and fathers are weeping; sisters and brothers crying in bed. Their tears mixed with blood; and you wonder why their eyes are red? They shot him with plastic bullets. Once. Maybe twice. Put him in a barrel; closed the lid. Rolled him about. With vengeance. Rolled him to his death-bed.

So Supers: Have you become so large Your concern Directed to beasts instead!

Adnan Haddad

U.N. conference on Lebanon

MEDFORD, Massachusetts — The time may be at hand for a United Nations conference to find a solution to the Lebanese crisis, a former Lebanese ambassador to the United Nations told an international meeting, convened at Tufts University to discuss the problems of rebuilding Lebanon.

Ghassan Tuani, editor of Al Nahar, a leading Lebanese newspaper, suggested U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar bring the Lebanese parties together for such a conference.

He said he was heartened by what he sees as a new sense of cooperation between the superpowers. He pointed to the Soviets' withdrawal from Afghanistan and their recent payment of their share in the cost of UNIFIL (United Nations Truce Forces in Lebanon).

The October 28-30 meeting at Tufts University brought together academicians from Lebanon, France, Great Britain and the United States to discuss the problems of rebuilding the Lebanese state and society. The conference was sponsored by Tufts' Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Oxford's Centre for Lebanese Studies, and Harvard's Centre for Middle Eastern Studies.

William Quandt of the Brookings Institution said "The U.S. effort in Lebanon this year (regarding reform and elections) was worth making...and it failed. But it was not the decisive element in creating the outcome," he said. Part of the failure can be attributed to increased foreign intervention in Lebanese affairs, after the ceasefire in the Gulf war, which caused a stiffening of positions by the Syrians and other opponents, said Quandt, a former staff member of the National Security Council during the Carter administration.

"Perhaps for the moment the U.S. will have to step back and allow changes to take place within the Lebanese community before it can play some kind of a helpful role in the future."

Michael Hudson of Georgetown University was more optimistic than Quandt about the prospects of a successful U.S. role in Lebanon. He said the U.S. might have been able to bring matters to a happier ending in the last few months "if we had taken the Lebanese situation more seriously."

If the U.S. had been "more vigorous and forthcoming and specific we might have helped in finding an alternative candidate... acceptable by the Lebanese community on both sides."

Hudson also blamed the "timing" for partly contributing to the unsuccessful U.S. effort saying that "by the time it looked like things were falling apart, it was really too late to turn things around."

"Lebanon is too important to be given only 'benign neglect' or any kind of neglect," Hudson said. "I hope the U.S. will, in the next administration, play an active and weighty and serious role...to help clear the ground for internal reforms."

David Newton, director of Lebanon, Jordan and Syria affairs at the State Department, characterised U.S. efforts in Lebanon as "damage control" rather than "benign neglect." He said the U.S. is trying to "close the gap" in Lebanon and bring the differing parties together. Newton said the U.S. sees political reform in Lebanon as "essential" and that this reform "needs the political will on the part of the Lebanese."

Keynote speaker Walid Khalidi of Harvard University reviewed different formulas the Lebanese used since the inception of their state to conclude that the "national covenant" formula lasted longest because it was based on a consensus.

"The responsibility for mediation and reconciliation should not be entirely thrown at Damascus and Washington," he said. "The responsibility of peninsular Arab countries is just as great, and these efforts should not concentrate on solving the Lebanese crisis only but also the Arab-Israeli dispute," he said.

Khalidi said the possibility of a mini-Arab summit on Lebanon should be explored, and attendance by the Maronite Patriarch as such a summit, pending the election of a Lebanese president, could have a healing effect.

"Important as the mediator role of the outside powers is, it is the Lebanese protagonists themselves who have to find the points of equilibrium between the fears that they experience and whatever benefits they perceive in their continued coexistence inside Lebanon" — U.S. Information Agency.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Greeks and West Germans expelled after protest

ANKARA (AP) — Turkey expelled Saturday a group of Greek and West German human rights activists detained during a protest Friday, an official said. Mehmet Agar, the Ankara chief of security, told the AP that 12 Greeks and eight West Germans were flown to Istanbul, where they boarded planes at Ataturk International airport and left Turkey. A group of 24 Greeks and West Germans were detained Friday in an Ankara courtroom when they unfurled banners calling for general amnesty for several hundred leftists on trial for political killings and allegedly attempting to stage a communist revolution in Turkey.

Sweden frees two Palestinians

STOCKHOLM (R) — Swedish police said Saturday they had released two men of Palestinian origin who had been suspected of links with a West German-based terrorist group. They were among a group of six detained Thursday in Uppsala, a university city 50 miles north of Stockholm. They had been suspected of plotting acts of sabotage. Police detained the two unidentified men after a tip-off from West Germany, where 14 members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) were arrested last week.

Locust clouds hamper drivers in Iran

NICOSIA (R) — Swarms of red locusts have invaded southwest Iran, severely curbing visibility on roads, Tehran radio reported Friday. Locust-fighting groups and aircraft were preparing to spray insecticide on the swarms in Khuzestan province, which has hundreds of thousands of hectares of farmland, said the radio, monitored in Nicosia. Iranian television said Thursday that locusts now infected the Gulf coast province of Bushehr while planes were spraying swarms in Fars province further to the north. The locusts crossed the Gulf into Iran from the Arabian Peninsula.

Turkey moves 8,000 Iraqi Kurds

ISTANBUL (R) — About 8,000 Iraqi Kurdish refugees have been moved to concrete houses for the winter in the remote eastern province of Mus, officials said Saturday. Anatolian news agency quoted Mus Governor Adil Yazar as saying it was costing Turkey about 10 million lira (\$60,000) a day to feed and care for the refugees. The rehousing in 410 concrete homes built for earthquake victims in the 1970s completed the first long-term resettlement of Iraqi Kurds, Anatolian said.

Bahrain hopes to upgrade Iranian ties

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa said his country hoped to upgrade diplomatic ties with Iran to ambassador level. "We hope to exchange ambassadors in future. Iran might nominate an ambassador and we might nominate one, too," the weekly newspaper Al Adwa Saturday quoted Mohammad as saying. Ties between the two countries were strained and diplomatic representation reduced during the Iran-Iraq war. Relations have improved since a ceasefire came into effect in August. Last month, Iran sent a charge d'affaires to Bahrain.

China calls on Moscow to withdraw troops

PEKING (R) — China called on the Soviet Union Saturday to withdraw all its troops from Afghanistan and not "find pretexts" for delay. The Soviet Union said on Friday it had suspended the withdrawal and could complete it only if all sides observed the April Geneva accords, which laid down the conditions for the Soviet pull-out. The New China News Agency quoted a statement from the foreign ministry as saying China was concerned about the development of the situation in Afghanistan. "China hopes the Soviet Union will earnestly implement the Geneva accords by withdrawing all its troops from Afghanistan as scheduled, instead of finding pretexts for delaying its troop withdrawal," the statement said.

Reagan disappointed

Moscow suspends Afghan pullout, says all must observe accords

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union has suspended its troop withdrawal from Afghanistan and declared the pullout can only be completed if all sides observe the Geneva accords on the conflict.

A barrage of Afghan rebel attacks that caused casualties among Soviet troops and killed hundreds of civilians since the pullout began in May prompted the decision to suspend the operation, a top foreign ministry official said Friday.

"The withdrawal of troops is being suspended for the time being," First Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh said. "The conditions the opposition are imposing on us are not the conditions for withdrawal

of Soviet troops." Speaking at a news conference, he said Moscow still intended to carry out its obligations under the quadripartite Geneva accords, which call for all Soviet soldiers to leave Afghanistan by February 15.

But he added: "For the obligations under the Geneva accords to be carried out, the Geneva accords must be effective and be observed by all sides."

In Washington, President Reagan said Friday he was dis-

appointed at the Soviet suspension of its troop withdrawal from Afghanistan but it was important to note Moscow's statement that the suspension was temporary.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman warned that continued Soviet attacks would embolden the U.S.-backed Mujahideen rebels to fight on.

"I think we're all disappointed," Reagan said at Chicago's O'Hare international airport during a trip to Illinois, a key state in next Tuesday's presidential election.

But he told reporters it was important to note the Soviet action was something "they themselves said was temporary."

Reagan made the comment after signing legislation implementing American participation in the international genocide convention.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater had earlier told reporters on the plane bringing Reagan to Chicago: "The Soviets have maintained their pledge to totally withdraw by February 15 and we expect them to do so."

Fitzwater said Soviet actions in Afghanistan "can only increase tensions in the region and raise speculation that they aren't going to live up to the Geneva accords."

"We expect them to... and hope that is what their intentions are," Fitzwater said.

Lebanese militias conclude non-kidnapping pact

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — The Syrian-backed Amal militia and the pro-Iranian Hezbollah said Saturday they concluded a non-kidnapping pact to avert a military confrontation between the two main Shi'ite factions.

Statements issued by the two groups said the agreement was sponsored by the command of Syrian army contingent in charge of security in west Beirut's sector.

Amal, Arabic for hope, and Hezbollah, or Party of God, have been locked in a bloody struggle for dominance of the one million Shi'ites that make up Lebanon's largest single sect.

The Syrians sent troops into south Beirut's Shi'ite slums May 27 to halt a three-week bloodbath.

Soviet suspension of troop withdrawal shows frustration

By Robert Evans
Reuters

MOSCOW — The Soviet decision to suspend its troop withdrawal from Afghanistan reflects anger and frustration at continuing Western military supplies to anti-Communist guerrillas, Soviet officials and commentators say.

"How much longer do you think we could sit back and watch the other side making fools of us?" said one Moscow foreign affairs commentator.

First Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh announced the decision at a news conference on Friday, saying the pull-out was being temporarily suspended.

Bessmertnykh did not dramatize the announcement, which came when he answered ques-

tions after reading a bitterly worded statement on the Afghan situation that made no reference to the pull-out.

But he suggested the suspension could be prolonged unless military supplies from the West through Pakistan to guerrillas seeking to overthrow the Kabul

government were at least modified.

"The conditions the opposition are imposing on us are not the conditions for the withdrawal of Soviet troops," Bessmertnykh said.

"The Soviet Union intends to stand by its obligations under the Geneva accords," he declared. "For obligations under the Geneva accords to be

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government were at least modified.

"The conditions the opposition are imposing on us are not the conditions for the withdrawal of Soviet troops," Bessmertnykh said.

"The Soviet Union intends to stand by its obligations under the Geneva accords," he declared. "For obligations under the Geneva accords to be

carried out, the agreements must be effective and be observed by all the sides."

Under the accord signed in April, Moscow began to withdraw its force of about 105,000 from Afghanistan in May. Fifty per cent were out of the country by mid-August.

The rest were to start heading for home this month and the pull-out was to be completed by next February.

As the accords were being negotiated through United Nations mediation, the United States said it would agree to stop arms supplies to the guerrillas if the Soviet Union halted all military aid to Kabul.

The Soviet Union rejected the proposal, arguing it had a 67-year-old cooperation agreement with Afghanistan.

"But we felt we had a tacit agreement with Washington that we would both exercise restraint and work for a political solution," one Soviet official said.

Since April, according to figures cited by Bessmertnykh, there have been 550 guerrilla attacks on Soviet units causing casualties whose number he declined to divulge.

At the same time, there has been a rapid rise in guerrilla rocket assaults on Afghan towns and cities — which Bessmertnykh said had killed 230 civilians in October alone.

Over the past month, Moscow has dispatched short-range Scud SS-1 missiles to Kabul to help the Afghan army counter the attacks and Soviet aircraft have bombed guerrilla bases.

These moves came after several public warnings from Soviet spokesmen that the continuing arms flow to the guerrillas could not go unanswered.

Lawyers boycott trial

Turkish prisoners stage mass hunger strike

ANKARA (Agencies) — Up to 800 prisoners in six Turkish jails have gone on hunger strike to back demands for better conditions and treatment, prison sources said Friday.

Some of the protests, in Istanbul's Bayrampasa military jail and in civilian prisons in Adana, Eskisehir, Sanliurfa, Diyarbakir and Ceyhan, started last week, they said.

The left-leaning daily Cumhuriyet said some hunger strikers were now in poor health and there could be deaths within a few days unless prisoners ended their fasts.

Twenty-one members of Turkey's Association of Prisoners' families were detained by the police this week while protesting in the gardens of parliament against prison conditions.

The association said in a state-

ment on Friday to mark the 38th anniversary of the signing of the human rights declaration that "torture, beatings and human rights violations are all back on the agenda (in prisons)."

"We call on Turkey to obey the declaration's articles. We want a humane attitude towards our children in jail," it said.

Amnesty International accused Turkey in a report issued last Wednesday of brutal and systematic abuses of human rights and said political prisoners were in grave danger of being tortured. Turkey, which this year ratified the United Nations convention against torture, dismissed the report by the London-based human rights group as a product of opposition influence.

Defence lawyers boycott trial

In another development, about

30 defence lawyers representing two Turkish Communist leaders boycotted Friday's session of their trial to protest extraordinary security measures outside the courtroom.

Police barricaded roads leading to the courthouse to keep sympathisers of the defendants from attending the trial.

Halit Celenk, one of the defence lawyers, told the court Friday that the trial should be open to the public in accordance with Turkish law.

Following Celenk's statement, about 30 lawyers left the courtroom.

The Communist leaders, Nihat Sargin and Haydar Kurtlu, are charged with attempting to stage a Communist revolution in Turkey. Their trial began three months ago.

Sargin, secretary-general of the

outlawed Turkish Labour Party, and Kurtlu, secretary-general of the Turkish Communist Party in exile, were arrested a year ago when they returned from exile in West Germany. They face prison terms of up to 275 years if convicted.

Police detained 22 people who gathered in front of the courthouse in support of the two men during last month's sessions.

Greeks, Germans detained

Turkish police detained 20 Greeks and two West Germans for staging a protest during the trial, Anatolian news agency reported.

It said they were hustled out of the Ankara military court and detained after they unfurled a banner reading "Amnesty-democracy."

Crown Prince urges increased self-reliance

(Continued from page 1)

Both sectors, he said, should "give a chance to hidden entrep-

reneurs to put forward ideas that are useful and feasible."

Prince Hassan commended the government's recent economic

measures, which entail rationalised spending, and said ample opportunities do exist in the economic sector, particularly in investment.

Prince Hassan said "a knowledge base," which can contribute effectively towards promoting development, was essential in Jordan and called for creation of a national data centre to provide the required information to all sectors.

HCST Secretary-General Adnan Badran presented the meeting with a briefing on the work and responsibilities of sectoral committees on industry and energy, agriculture and bio-technology, health and environment, water and mineral resources, communications and international relations, finance and economic education and human resources, information-technology and "science parks."

Shamir pledges settlements

(Continued from page 1)

change the law, which currently recognises conversions by reform and conservative as well as orthodox rabbis.

"If there are more (in parliament) who are in favour of it, there are greater chances that it will be passed," he said.

The so-called "who is a Jew" law has been denounced as discriminatory by U.S. Jews. More than 80 per cent of the six million U.S. Jews are affiliated with congregations belonging to the reform or Conservative movements.

The law is a key demand of the orthodox and ultra-orthodox religious parties.

The law does not appear to be a sticking point in the coalition talks. Most Likud legislators, including Shamir, voted for the proposed law when it was last put to a vote in 1987. At the time it was narrowly defeated.

Although the law would not disqualify most conservative or reform Jews, movement leaders have said it would symbolically expel them from the Jewish fold and alienate them from Israel.

But Shamir dismissed such concerns. "Before every vote on some religious law, there is a big noise among American Jews," Shamir told Israel Radio. "I think there is a lot of exaggeration."

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Situation worsens for Third World debtors

WASHINGTON (AP) — The world's financial system, suffering from a disease called Third World debt, has been in "crisis" for six years now, ever since August 1982 when Mexico stopped paying debt interest because of tumbling oil prices.

Improving balance sheets of creditor banks and growing export sales by debtor countries such as Argentina and Brazil have led some analysts to say the crisis is over, while the illness remains.

Debtor nations have a different perspective. They have dubbed the 1980s "the lost decade" because of the declining standards of living their citizens have suffered so interest payments could be made.

Seven Latin American leaders, whose countries collectively owe \$420 billion to banks and international lending organizations, said last week that the crisis was acute enough to threaten their democracies.

Latin American nations are major participants in the crisis — the three biggest debtors are Brazil, Mexico and Argentina — and U.S. banks are the major private lenders to Latin America.

There is movement towards new strategies for coping with the \$1.2-trillion debt developing countries owe.

U.S. joblessness drop

WASHINGTON (R) — A falling U.S. unemployment rate gave a boost to Republican George Bush in the last days of the presidential campaign but financial markets saw troubling signs of inflation in the new figures.

The jobless rate slipped from 5.4 per cent in September to the 5.3 per cent in October, matching the 14-year low it reached in June, the Labour Department said Friday.

At the same time, the depart-

ment said the number of jobs created last month jumped by 325,000 to 107.1 million. In the past year, the U.S. economy has created 3.7 million jobs.

For Bush, who has embraced Reagan administration economic policies, the news could not have been better as the campaign moved into its final weekend before election day Tuesday.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average lost 24.54 points.

U.S. banks last year posted their lowest earnings since the 1930s depression, \$3.7 billion, largely because they added \$25 billion to Third World debt reserves. But this year, with the reserve behind them, U.S. banks in the first six months earned \$10.5 billion and, having restored Brazil's loans to paying status after an 18-month interest payment moratorium, are heading toward a record year for profits.

Willard C. Butcher, chairman of Chase Manhattan Bank of New York, one of the biggest lenders to developing nations, argues that debtor countries also are better off.

"Brazil will probably have the third largest trade surplus of any country in the world this year... Mexico (has) more than quadrupled its non-oil exports since this crisis set in... Venezuela has literally reduced its debt... Chile has made major reductions," Butcher said.

Since October 1985, the United States has pursued the "Baker plan," named after former treasury secretary James A. Baker. It called for new loans and stretching out the payments on old loans in exchange for internal economic reforms by debtor countries.

But critics such as U.S. Senator Bill Bradley of New Jersey argue that debtor countries need less, not more debt, if they are to improve their economies and the lives of their people.

Even one of the architects of the plan, Richard Darman, for-

mer deputy treasury secretary, acknowledged at a conference in Washington a month ago that the strategy failed to bring as much new money to debtors as he and Baker had hoped.

"We have simply postponed the ultimate day of reckoning in the mistaken belief that this type of problem withers away with time," Bradley said.

He conceded that the U.S. banking system is on less precarious footing, but he argues that if more is not done Latin America's "lost decade" will haunt the United States in the form of rising political and economic turmoil south of the border. Also, developing countries that had once been lucrative markets for U.S.

exports will no longer be able to buy American goods.

"In Mexico, half of the population is under the age of 15. If Mexico doesn't have the money to invest in its economy, they can't generate the jobs. If they don't generate the jobs, there's only one place these people are headed and that's north," Bradley said.

If the developing countries are to pay less on their debts, someone else must pay, either the banks or the taxpayers of the creditor nations.

Bankers look to the taxpayers. Politicians, representing the taxpayers, look to the banks. And the debtors look to both the banks and creditor governments.

But new alternatives to the Baker plan are beginning to emerge.

At the September meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank meetings in Berlin, Japanese Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa advanced a plan for debtor countries to buy back their debts at a discount and then issue bonds to their creditors.

Repayment of the bonds would be guaranteed through a fund managed by the IMF. President Francois Mitterrand of France has proposed a similar plan.

These new strategies ask the banks to recognise loss and the taxpayers of the IMF member nations to take some risk.

Analysts forecast low oil prices

HOUSTON (R) — World oil prices will remain near current levels through the end of the century because of slowing demand growth, the threat of an economic recession and excess OPEC production, oil analysts said.

Much of what happens to oil prices will reflect the level of production among major suppliers, such as members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), they said.

OPEC, which produces about

one-third of the world's oil, is not likely to cut output soon because of sharp, internal political disagreements, according to Ashland Oil Inc. chief economist Cyrus Tahmassebi.

Because of deep divisions within OPEC, particularly between Iran and Iraq, Tahmassebi said "not much will take place in a short- or medium-term" to set production quotas.

Although OPEC hopes to stem overproduction in a move to raise oil prices to \$18 a barrel by this time next year, Tahmassebi said

prices are destined to fluctuate between \$10 and \$15 a barrel until at least the year 2000.

Tahmassebi and other analysts were speaking at an international association of energy economics meeting in Houston last week.

William Brown, an oil analyst with Kidder, Peabody and Co. Inc., said prices could fall \$1 a barrel in the next few months because of weakening gasoline demand. But the downward pressure should begin to ease "late in the second quarter or early in the third quarter of 1989," Brown said.

He predicted that crude oil prices would improve by \$2 to \$3 in the second half of 1989, boosting North Sea Brent, for example, to \$14 to \$15 a barrel.

North Sea Brent Crude, the world's most widely traded grade, commanded about \$12.95 a barrel Friday for November shipments.

Brown said gasoline demand in the United States should fall from 7.3 million barrels per day to below 7.0 million in December because of a seasonal decline. At the same time, refineries are not expected to cut their output because of the current profit margins in the industry, he said.

Tahmassebi said oil demand will not grow as rapidly as in the

past few years, particularly in the United States, where "there's a very good chance for a recession in the second half of 1989... which could spread to other countries."

The analysts blamed low prices on the world oversupply of crude. To reduce the oversupply OPEC would have to set a production quota of 17 million b/d, which is unlikely, Tahmassebi said.

"Reducing quotas will be very difficult to achieve," he said.

Separately, Mobil Corp. Chairman Allen Murray told Reuters in an interview he was optimistic OPEC will reach an accord which could lift oil prices to the group's \$18 a barrel target by November 1989.

"I'm optimistic they will get their act together and I think by this time next year we're going to be close to that \$18 figure," he said.

OPEC secretariat's Akim Iwayemi, also speaking at the conference, said OPEC should not be expected to make production cuts alone.

OPEC production averaged 21.7 million b/d in October, up from 20.6 million b/d in September, according to a Reuters survey. The group has a self-imposed production ceiling of 15.06 million b/d excluding Iraq.

Japanese firms rush to sell 'no film' cameras

TOKYO (R) — Japanese electronics and optical companies are scrambling to sell still video cameras — a new breed that needs no film, no darkroom and little patience, company spokesmen said.

The cameras use floppy discs instead of film, and pictures can be instantly played back onto a television or a special printer.

Industry analysts expect these "no film" models will one day usurp the position of the single lens reflex camera as the serious photographer's favourite.

"Instant Gratification — that's what it's called," said Darryl Whitten, vice president of Prudential-Bache Securities in Tokyo.

He predicted consumers would want the satisfaction of shooting pictures, going home, wiring the camera to the television and instantly reviewing their adventures.

"People will not want to wait until film is developed," said Whitten.

The still video camera was pioneered a few years ago but it has been kept off the market because it cost too much and the pictures were inferior, analysts said.

The picture quality has not improved much, they said, but ruthless cost-cutting by some companies such as Sony and Canon has brought it to the shops.

Sony's is the cheapest model, costing 69,800 yen (\$541) for the camera and 30,000 yen (\$232) for a play-back machine. It will be launched in December in Japan, next spring in the United States, and next summer in Europe, a spokesman said.

Spokesmen for Sony and other companies said the U.S. price for their cameras would be set independently and not be a direct conversion of the Japanese price.

Canon's version — in which the player is incorporated into the camera — costs 98,000 yen (\$759) plus 20,000 yen (\$155) for accessories.

Those prices could lure a few buyers, but would probably need to be slashed by almost a half before the cameras attract a wide following, analysts said.

"The prices need to come down much more and the picture resolution needs to be brought much nearer to that of film pictures," said Naoki Sato, electronics analyst at Schroder Securities (Japan).

"If the companies can resolve

these problems, then the market will explode," Sato said. "But I think we will have to wait two or three years."

"Eventually, the still video market could be the size of the single lens reflex market," said Prudential-Bache's Whitten.

A single lens reflex (SLR) camera, preferred by serious photographers partly because of its ability to carry a number of interchangeable, high-quality lenses, costs about 60,000 yen (\$465) at the cheaper end of the scale in Japan.

Sales of SLRs have been declining. In the year ended March 31, 1988, a total of 4.16 million were sold here, compared with 7.5 million in the year to March 31, 1982.

Nevertheless, they are big business for companies such as Nikon and Minolta where cameras accounted for about 44 per cent and 51 per cent of total sales during the 1987 year.

Analysts said Nikon leads in still video technology and some photojournalists in Japan use their system. But the camera alone costs 450,000 yen (\$3,488).

Konica and Casio have both decided to make 5,000 still video cameras a month. Their models cost roughly 130,000 yen (\$1,000) with the players included, spokesmen for the companies said.

Minolta has engineered a system costing 198,000 yen (\$1,500). Fuji Photo Film and Matsushita Electric Industrial have also brought out similarly priced models.

A Canon spokesman predicted total annual Japanese demand for still video cameras at two million in two years, rising to more than four million in four or five years.

Analysts said that although the "no film" cameras will erode the SLR market, some coexistence is possible.

How quickly the SLR fades from view will depend on how fast picture printers for the floppy disc films can produce results as good as the darkroom, said an analyst at Jardine Fleming (Securities) in Tokyo.

At the moment, the quality of the printers is low and they are prohibitively expensive, typically costing about twice as much as the still video cameras, analysts said.

"If companies can bring out cheap, good quality printers quickly then the still video will begin its dominance of the SLR," said the Jardine Fleming analyst.

"The printer is the key to the market," he added.

Arab aluminium output likely to double in 90s

ABU DHABI (R) — Aluminium production in Arab states is expected to nearly double to a million tonnes a year in the early 1990s, a bank study predicted.

The Emirates Industrial Bank

said most of the increase from the present production level of 510,000 tonnes would come from new smelters in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The Emirates Industrial Bank

Iran plans big seaborne trade expansion to rebuild economy

DUBAI (R) — Iran, battling to get its postwar economy moving, is planning a big expansion in its seaborne trade and is opening new Caspian Sea routes to the Soviet Union to switch away from the Gulf, Iranian officials say.

"We have so many projects under serious study to make a very big expansion, and we are still thinking of more," said Hossein Gulparvar, commercial director of the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Line (IRISL).

During its eight-year war with Iraq, Iran's main objective was to ship out as much oil as possible to help pay war bills.

The chairman of the National Iranian Tanker Company, Mohammad Souri, said last week he also planned more expansion, probably next year.

But faced with a programme of economic reconstruction, which Iranian officials estimate at anything up to \$400 billion, a new priority is bulk imports of construction materials and basic foodstuffs, Gulf shipping agents said.

The strategic consequences of this for Iran's economy became apparent during the war when its Kharg Island oil terminal and the ports of Bandar Khomeini, Bushehr, and Khorramshahr all came within range of Iraqi aircraft.

Iranian trade officials are already trying to attract international shippers back to the surviving terminals at these ports, the Gulf shipping agents said.

They have had limited success due to a continued threat of mines to shipping and lack of any firm peace settlement.

But the north of the country, which includes the capital Tehran and which is divided from the south by high mountain chains, could be better and more cheaply supplied through the Caspian ports of Anzali and Nowshahr.

Gulparvar said IRISL had ordered two ships from Bulgaria at a cost of \$11 million and forecast annual trade with the Soviet Union would double to one million tonnes in a few years.

Previously, Soviet ships had a monopoly on the route.

Goods can also be transported via the Black Sea and across Soviet territory to the Caspian, he said.

In the Gulf, much depends on the outcome of peace talks between Iran and Iraq following their Aug. 20 ceasefire.

But Iranian officials said the full effects on trade of any settlement could take up to a year to appear.

IRISL has signed with the Soviet shipping company Gospar to increase two-way trade and establish routes from Europe, Gulparvar said in a telephone interview from Tehran.

Gulf-based economists said the move could make a significant difference to Iran's trade and strategic position.

Iran's main ports have traditionally faced onto the Gulf's northern reaches.

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JPMC to commence Shidieh phosphate mining next month

AMMAN (J.T.) — The new phosphate mine at Shidieh in southern Jordan will commence production in the coming month when nearly 50,000 tonnes will initially be produced, according to Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) Director-General Wasel Azar.

By the year 2000, the Shidieh mine will be the main source for Jordan's phosphate because the Al Abiad and Al Hassa mines will have been depleted by that time, Azar said in an interview published by Al Dustour Arabic newspaper Saturday.

He said that nearly 60 per cent of Jordan's lands contain phosphate in different quantities but the Shidieh mine has proved to have substantial amount of the mineral estimated at no less than a billion tonnes located in nearly 10 square kilometres of land.

Last year, the JPMC exported some 5.4 million tonnes of phosphate but this year exports are expected to rise to six million tonnes which would earn the country a profit of \$45 million, Azar noted.

He said that Jordan exports phosphate to countries in South East Asia, Eastern Europe and those around the Mediterranean Sea in addition to Canada and Mexico. About one million tonnes are diverted to the Jordan Fertilizer Industries Company in Aqaba to help produce fertilizers.

The JPMC, Azar noted, produces seven types of phosphate and can adapt production to the needs of customers which are now nearly 30 nations in different parts of the world.

A fourth mine, that of Ruseifa, stopped production four years ago because of the bad quality of produced mineral that fetched very little in the international markets, Azar noted.

He said that most of the 850 workers who were employed at the Ruseifa mine had been transferred to Al Hassa and Al Abiad mines in southern Jordan but 300 of them are still carrying out limited production work at

Ruseifa.

In reply to a question about the company's capital, Azar said that it will be increased shortly from JD 20 million to JD 30 million following the sale of new shares to the public to raise funds to finance the company's new operations and equipment.

Until last year, 99.5 per cent of the shareholders were Jordanians, represented in private individuals, the government and government-affiliated institutions, but the company had to sell some of its shares to the institutions and the private individuals to pay compensation to the shareholders of the Jordan Fertilizer Industries Company in Aqaba which went broke and was bought by the JPMC, Azar noted.

He said that apart from private individuals, the Arab Mining Company, the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank, the Kuwaiti government, the Arab Bank, the Pension Fund and the Social Security Corporation are now among the shareholders.

Kuwait, he added, owns 20 per cent of the total number of shares, and the JPMC is continuously trying to attract more investors from the Arab World.

Azar talked about barter trade with a certain number of countries which cannot provide cash, and whose products are needed by Jordan.

He said that apart from such trade Jordan's trade protocols with other countries, make it imperative for these countries to buy Jordanian phosphate, potash and fertilizers if they want to have preferential trade status with Jordan.

At present, phosphate from the mines in the south are being transported to Aqaba for export partly by trucks and partly by train, and shipments are expected to increase considerably once the new Aqaba railway has been completed, Azar noted.

He said that at least 6.6 million tonnes of phosphate are transported by different means to the port city every year.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday Nov. 5, 1988
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	141.0	141.5	Japanese yen (for 100)	359.1	360.9
Found sterling	118.8	119.4	Dutch guilder	222.2	223.3
Deutschemark	240.7	242.0	Swedish crown	72.4	72.8
Swiss franc	209.3	210.8	Italian lira (for 100)	33.7	33.9
French franc	71.5	71.9	Belgian franc (for 100)	119.6	120.2

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for Nov. 5, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	45251	JD 652919	643
Top three companies:			
Arab Bank Limited	920	JD 124625	50
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	31750	JD 84003	103
Arab Aluminium Industries	22222	JD 44135	26
Parallel market:	63372	JD 44644	—
Development bonds:	550	JD 5808	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	—	—	—

JORDAN BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Ministry of Industry and Trade	66319	Jordan Commercial Centres Corporation	603507
Ministry of Supply	66321	Free Zones Corporation	642001
Ministry of Finance	66322	Amman Financial Market	660700
Ministry of Planning	66346	Amman Chamber of Commerce	666151
Ministry of Labour	663186	Amman Chamber of Industry	664747
Ministry of Communications	647391	Association of Banks in Jordan	662238
Ministry of Agriculture	639391	Jordan Association of Insurance Companies	647370
Income Tax Department	639001	General Statistics Department	646174
Central Bank of Jordan	660151	Jordanian Businessmen Association	689663
Amman Customs Department	72181		
Social Security Corporation	643800		
Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation	721194		

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Arab basketball championship kicks off

AMMAN (J.T.) — The 1988 Arab basketball championship sponsored by Aramex International kicked off Saturday at the Al Hussein City Sports Palace with a victory for Jordan's Al Jazirah over Lebanon's Homenmen with a score of 123/86 (60/36).

The week-long championship, which is organized by the Jordan Basketball Federation and co-sponsored by Royal Jordanian on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, brings together six teams from three other countries: Iraq's Al Rashid, Egypt's Zamalek, Lebanon's Homenmen, Jordan's Al Orthodoxy and Al Ahli are taking part in the games in addition to Al Jazirah.

Aramex's sponsorship of the games comes in the context of the company's efforts to promote local sports. Aramex has sponsored the Al Jazirah team in order to "prove that there is a third power in basketball in the country," according to Aramex's Vice President for Marketing and Sales Safwan Tanneer. Al Orthodoxy, currently holding the national championship title, and Al Ahli, the runner up, are the two leading teams in the country.

On Sunday, Al Ahli is scheduled to meet Iraq's Al Rashid team at 4:00 p.m. while the Al Orthodoxy will play against Egypt's Al Zamalek.

English soccer scarred

LONDON (AP) — English soccer's bid to improve its tarnished image has taken another blow with reports that international star Viv Anderson was punched to the floor by an opponent after a cup game Wednesday.

The incident happened as the players left the field after the Manchester United-Wimbledon league cup game. Coming a month after an Arsenal player was banned for nine games for breaking an opponent's jaw, it has prompted renewed calls for tougher action against violent players.

With English soccer trying to rid itself of fan violence, leading representatives of the clubs and the players are worried that the latest outbreak of trouble on the field will have a worsening effect of the game's image in the country renowned as its birthplace.

"There have been one of two incidents recently and it is up to the authorities to nip this sort of violence in the bud," Gordon Taylor, said Friday.



McEnroe in action

McEnroe reaches quarterfinals

ANTWERP (R) — John McEnroe demolished rising Argentine star Guillermo Perez-Roldan 6-2, 6-1 but second seed Tim Mayotte tumbled in the quarter-finals of the European Community Tennis Championship Friday.

McEnroe, seeded sixth, needed just one game to get accustomed to the heavy groundstrokes of 19-year-old Perez-Roldan who, despite his age, is an experienced clay-court specialist though less secure on hard surface.

But fellow-American Mayotte, the Olympic silver medalist, was bundled out 6-1, 6-4 by unseeded Swiss Jakob Hlasek, who will take on McEnroe in Saturday's semifinals.

opened by breaking McEnroe's serve but the former world number one retaliated immediately and stormed to a 4-1 lead by breaking his eager opponent twice in a row.

He sealed the set in just 30 minutes, on his second set point. McEnroe, winner here in 1983 and 1986, hurried to a 3-0 lead in the second set, blocking every attempt by Perez-Roldan to pass him at the net.

The 29-year-old American had another break in the sixth game for a 5-1 lead and served an ace on his second matchpoint.

McEnroe said afterwards: "What I did is what you have to do against a guy who doesn't have a lot of experience on this surface: mix it up and he just feels uncomfortable."

Navratilova, Evert advance

WORCESTER (R) — Top seed Martina Navratilova coasted into the semifinals of the \$300,000 New England tennis tournament Friday, while second seed Chris Evert narrowly escaped elimination.

Navratilova, who has not dropped a set all week, met with little resistance and powered her way to a 6-1, 6-2 victory over fifth seed Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia.

L.A. Lakers score in Dallas

NEW YORK (AP) — So the Los Angeles Lakers can win in Dallas, after all.

Maybe it was the disappointment with themselves for losing all three playoff games at reunion arena last spring. Maybe it was a renewed determination to be dominant on the road. Whatever the reason, the two-time defending champions opened the NBA season Friday night with a 116-113 victory over the Mavericks.

"Both teams took this as an important game," Lakers guard Byron Scott said. "Last year, we faltered on the road. We needed to prove to ourselves that we are a great road team."

Magic Johnson and James Worthy made sure the champs proved themselves on this night. Worthy took a pass from Johnson and scored a layup for the decisive points with 24 seconds to play. Johnson made two free throws and Worthy contributed a steal to seal it.

"We made the plays when we got down six points," Lakers coach Pat Riley said. "It was the way we have won some championships in the past. It was a struggle but we win."

Also winning on opening night were the Cleveland Cavaliers, who spoiled the expansion Charlotte Hornets' 133-93. The Miami Heat, the NBA's other expansion club, opens tonight, entertaining the Clippers, who fell 129-110 at Philadelphia Friday night.

In other openers, it was Boston 122, New York 115 in overtime, Atlanta 113, New Jersey 105, Milwaukee 117, Indiana 103, Detroit 107, Chicago 94, Denver 120, Houston 117, Seattle 104, Utah 97, and Portland 120, Phoenix 105.

With 2:34 to play before a sellout crowd of 17,007, Dallas led by six points. Then the Lakers showed their championship class.

Worthy scored 18 of his 25 points in the second half. Johnson scored 21 points and Scott added 18 as the Lakers began their attempt to become the first club to win three successive NBA titles since Boston in the 1960s.

Rolando Blackman led Dallas with 34 points.

The Hornets gave a packed house of 23,388 a taste of what expansion life is like in the pros. After Kelly Tripucka got the franchise's first points on a layup 1:48 into the game and Charlotte took a 34-32 lead in the second quarter, the Cavaliers took charge.

Larry Nance sparked a 34-6 spurt with 11 points in 4:12. A basket by Nance with 8:19 left in the first half tied the score and Craig Ehlo's layup put the Cavaliers ahead to stay with 8:02 to go.

Tripucka and Kurt Rambis led Charlotte with 16 points each. Celtics 122, Knicks 115, OT.

At Boston, Larry Bird and rookie Brian Shaw sparked the Celtics, who trailed most of the fourth quarter. But Bird tied it at 107 with a pair of free throws with 14 seconds left in regulation. In overtime, he scored six of his 29 points and Shaw, the team's no. 1 draft pick from Cal-Santa Barbara, passed to Bird for two baskets and to Dennis Johnson and Kevin McHale for another pair as the Celtics outscored the Knicks 15-8 in the extra session.

That gave Jimmy Rodgers' a successful debut as the 10th coach in Boston history.

76ers 129, Clippers 110

The presence of Hershey Hawkins at the spectrum and the absence of Danny Manning was critical. Hawkins, the nation's leading scorer at Bradley last year and Philadelphia's top draft selection, had 20 points and eight assists. Manning, a fellow Olympian and the no. 1 selection overall, is involved in a contract dispute with the Clippers.

Hawks 113, Nets 105

The visiting Hawks got a late wakeup call. But Dominique Wilkins scored 16 of his 35 points in the final period for the Hawks' 14th straight win over New Jersey. He snapped the final tie of the game by banking in an 8-foot shot in the lane for a 98-96 lead with 2:52 to go.

Bucks 117, Pacers 103

At Indianapolis, Ricky Pierce and Terry Cummings keyed the Bucks' win. Pierce came off the bench to score 11 of his 28 points in the second period. He also had Milwaukee's first six points in the fourth quarter, twice giving the Bucks their biggest lead of 16 points.

Pistons 107, Bulls 94

Adrian Dantley scored 22 points and Joe Dumars 20 as Detroit moved in front early and stayed there. The Pistons' defense "held" Michael Jordan, last season's league MVP and top scorer, to 28 points.

Nuggets 120, Rockets 117

At Denver, Alex English scored 39 points and Fat Lever added 27 as Denver rallied from a 15-point halftime deficit. Akeem Olatunji also had 39 points for Houston, while Otis Thorpe contributed 28.

Supersonics 104, Jazz 97

Visiting Seattle got 46 points from Dale Ellis, offsetting Karl Malone's 36. Ellis put Seattle up 85-80 early in the final quarter, but Malone and Thurl Bailey, who had 26, sparked an 8-0 Jazz run. With seven minutes remaining, Utah had a three-point lead. The lead changed hands several times after that before Xavier McDaniel put Seattle ahead for good with two jump shots.

Trail Blazers 120, Suns 105

At Portland, the Blazers beat Phoenix for the seventh straight time as Clyde Drexler scored 29 points. Drexler had 15 in a near-flawless third quarter, when he sank all seven field goal tries as the Blazers moved to an 18-point lead.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ K1074 ♠ K83 ♣ J98742
The bidding has proceeded:
South North East South
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
What action do you take?
A.—It looks as if partner has a good hand but couldn't act because he has heart length. You don't win money or tournaments by letting the opponents play at the one-level. Balance with two clubs.

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ Q3 ♠ Q84 ♠ AKQ107 ♠ 1065
The bidding has proceeded:
South North East South
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—With both black suits virtually unstoppped, no trump is out. So it's a choice between two diamonds and two hearts. While rebidding your suit in this sequence tends to show six, we would accept that bid because of your suit quality. However, we feel it would be wrong to support your three-card support to a top honor, so our vote goes to a raise to two hearts.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 9652 ♠ J3 ♠ 852 ♠ AQ73
The bidding has proceeded:
South North East South
1 ♣ Dbl 2 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—You have trump support and some defensive values. The modern style in this case is to ignore the double and make the bid you would have made had East passed—a raise to two spades.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 932 ♠ 73 ♠ 852 ♠ KJ762
The bidding has proceeded:
South North East South
1 ♣ Dbl 2 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—On offense your hand is worth quite a bit, but defensively you have little and your spade length detracts from partner's defensive potential. Jump to three spades. Over an opposing takeout double, that is a pre-emptive raise.

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 5 ♠ K108752 ♠ 952 ♠ 873
The bidding has proceeded:
South North East South
1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
What action do you take?
A.—It looks as if the strength is fairly evenly divided between the two sides. The fact that you have some length in diamonds makes it look as if partner doesn't have too many, so there's a good chance he has a few hearts. Since you've already limited your hand with your pass, compete now with two hearts.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ K8 ♠ 532 ♠ AKJ92 ♠ 943
The bidding has proceeded:
South North East South
1 ♣ Dbl 2 ♣ Pass
What action do you take?
A.—There is one way, and only one, to show a good hand after partner's opening bid has been doubled for takeout. Redouble. Any other bid by you at the two-level or higher denies the strength for a redouble.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

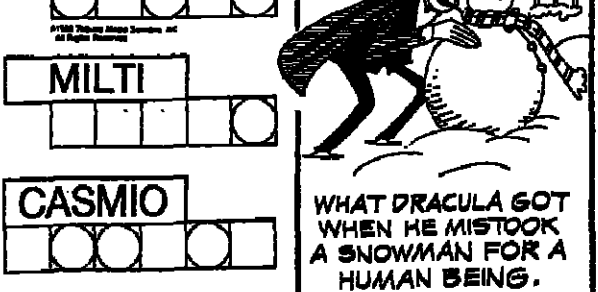


"I knew the summer drought would increase food prices. But \$15 for a pack of gum???"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SURBT
MILT
CASMIO
FEETOF



WHAT DRACULA GOT WHEN HE MISTOOK A SNOWMAN FOR A HUMAN BEING.

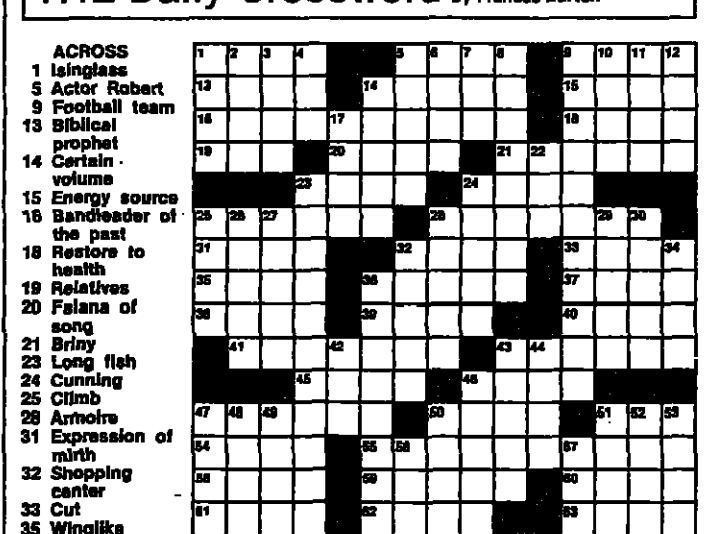
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: YOKEL KHAKI ENMITY CONVOX

Answer: The only voice that dad sometimes has in family affairs—"INVOICE"

THE Daily Crossword by Frances Burton



- ACROSS
- 1 English
 - 5 Actor Robert
 - 9 Football team
 - 13 Biblical prophet
 - 14 Certain volume
 - 15 Energy source
 - 16 Bandwaggon of the past
 - 18 Restore to health
 - 19 Relatives
 - 20 Falana of
 - 21 Song
 - 22 Long fish
 - 24 Canning
 - 25 Glimp
 - 28 Armhole
 - 31 Expression of mirth
 - 32 Shopping center
 - 33 Cut
 - 35 Wriglike
 - 36 —cochere
 - 37 Parent
 - 38 Tennis great
 - 39 Native metals
 - 40 Article
 - 41 Paced
 - 42 Hinders
 - 43 Slammer
 - 44 Adam's son
 - 45 Grave
 - 46 "Charles" star
 - 47 Lab burner
 - 51 Legal point
 - 54 Blessing
 - 55 Declaration of independence
 - 56 Concerning
 - 58 Nimble
 - 60 Lily plant
 - 61 Sandra and Ruby
 - 62 Ivy league school
 - 63 Watch over
- DOWN
- 1 Domino
 - 2 Kaffir warrior band
 - 3 Mint
 - 4 Golf norm
 - 5 Impenetrable
 - 6 Gr. letters
 - 7 Clock marker
 - 8 Footnote abbr.
 - 9 Not any
 - 10 Dull person
 - 11 Author Ludwig
 - 12 Anger
 - 13 Eng. school
 - 14 Jetison
 - 15 Muslim title
 - 16 Moslem

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Maldives mercenaries hold hostages as they flee across ocean

MALE, Maldives (R) — Indian warships shadowed a cargo boat manned by mercenaries fleeing across the Indian ocean with hostages Saturday after an abortive coup in the Maldives, the Indian High Commissioner said.

Arun Banerjee told reporters in Male that the warships — one carrying a team of negotiators — were closely monitoring the damaged 5,000-tonne freighter Progress Light as it struggled towards Sri Lanka to the northeast with 25 hostages on board.

Indian High Commission officials in Male denied a press report from New Delhi that the vessel had been captured.

Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom told Reuters earlier Saturday that two Swedes were among a number of foreigners held on the ship.

Deputy Defence Minister Ilias Ibrahim said: "About five to six Indian naval vessels have surrounded the ship and Indian air force helicopters are circling above it."

Banerjee said a Maldivian

negotiating team was aboard one of the Indian vessels shadowing the Progress Light. He would not give the boat's exact position.

He said the mercenaries, believed to be Sri Lankans, apparently left Male in three boats less than 24 hours after landing.

They fled when the first wave of a 1,600-strong Indian paratroop force was flown to Male late Thursday evening after Gayoom appealed for help.

"The mercenaries may have come in two boats, but they certainly left in three," he said. Indian forces knew where one of the other was, but the third had disappeared, he said.

Banerjee put the death toll in the day of violence at between 27 and 32, although the Maldives state television said 10 people

were killed. Banerjee said the Progress Light was listing. It was hit twice when Indian troops opened fire as it tried to slip out of Male under cover of darkness late Thursday.

In Colombo, naval sources said two gunboats had been stationed off the south-west coast in case the vessels reached Sri Lankan waters.

It was not immediately clear how many gunmen were aboard the Progress Light but shortly after the coup attempt collapsed reports from Male spoke of up to 400 mercenaries fleeing by sea.

Banerjee said the attackers, who had engaged in fierce battles with the small Maldives security forces, melted away without a fight after the Indians arrived and secured the airport.

Official sources said the gunmen, who wore green check uniforms, appeared to be Sri Lankans accompanied by a few Maldivians.

Gayoom said the situation on the island was under control.

Anti-Chun march sparks street battles in Seoul

SEOUL (R) — Thousands of South Koreans fought pitched battles with riot police in the heart of Seoul Saturday after authorities blocked a planned march on the home of disgraced strongman Chun Doo Hwan.

Streets near the Bank of Korea and the capital's main department stores were filled with rubble and burning tarmac in the worst city centre violence since the June 1987 popular revolt against Chun's autocratic rule.

Riot police fired teargas to disperse chanting demonstrators as thousands marched through the centre of Seoul demanding Chun's arrest and the overthrow of his successor, President Roh Tae-Woo.

Scattered groups of protesters evaded police cordons to march into the downtown shopping district from north-east Seoul, where nearly 10,000 students, dissidents and ordinary citizens had gathered for an anti-Chun rally.

"Arrest Chun Doo Hwan bring down Roh Tae-Woo," shouted the protesters, many dressed in suits and ties or carrying briefcases, as they stopped traffic on main thoroughfares and urged bystanders to join in.

At Seoul station and a main intersection downtown, police fired rounds of teargas at the crowd, some of whom were just waiting for trains or on their way home. Radicals fought back with petrol bombs and rocks.

Dissident leaders had called for a peaceful march on Chun's home in north-west Seoul, demanding his arrest and trial for alleged massive corruption and brutality.

There was early violence as police blocked a crowd of more than 5,000 who tried to take to the streets. Witnesses said demonstrators met a hail of teargas grenades when they refused to obey police orders to stop.

Later, in the city centre, a crowd swollen by supporters picked up on the way clashed with police barricading the road.

Within minutes the night scene was illuminated by scores of petrol bombs and the swirling smoke of teargas shells.

Report: Cornell student created computer 'virus'

NEW YORK (AP) — A "virus" that attacked university and research computers across the United States was introduced by a 23-year-old graduate student whose father is one of the government's most respected computer security experts, a published report said Saturday.

Meanwhile, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said it was launching a preliminary inquiry to determine whether U.S. law was violated by the computer invasion that also attacked a Defence Department network.

Washington FBI spokesman William Carter said a criminal investigation ultimately would be opened if it were determined violations had occurred.

The virus, a sort of rogue programme that reproduced in computers and apparently instructed them to send copies of itself to other machines through a research network, Arpanet, slowed computers and used up memory space. But there were no reports of damage, and most operators said the biggest problem was the time wasted eliminating it.

Arpanet, established by the Defence Department's advanced research projects agency, is used by researchers and defence contractors to share data at high speed.

The New York Times reported Saturday that the "virus" programme was created by a Cornell University graduate student, described by friends as "brilliant."

Quoting two sources, who reportedly had detailed knowledge of the case, the Times said Robert T. Morris Junior, 23, wrote the set of computer instructions as an experiment, which apparently went awry.

The paper said the programme eventually affected more than 6,000 computers, or 10 per cent of the systems linked through Internet, an international group of computer communications networks.

Stuart Lynn, vice-president of Cornell's Information Technology, said in a statement early Saturday that the university had not talked to Morris but confirmed that he was a graduate student at Cornell.

Bush, Mrs. Malaprop campaign together

CINCINNATI (R) — George Bush's chief speechwriter is former White House wordsmith Peggy Noonan, but Mrs. Malaprop often seems to inspire his ad-libs.

Like the character in English playwright R.B. Sheridan's restoration comedy "The Rivals," Bush regularly provokes unintended laughter by saying not what he means but whatever comes to his lips.

On Friday he even got the date of the presidential election wrong. "We've got to keep this fight-

ing spirit going right down till November fourth," he exclaimed at a rally.

America's voters choose between Bush and Democratic rival Michael Dukakis next Tuesday, Nov. 8.

At another point in the same Fairfield, Connecticut, speech the Republican nominee said Dukakis "opposed the biggest tax increase in Massachusetts history."

He meant to say "proposed" — but his wildly cheering audience did not seem to notice.

Bush has become renowned for

tripping over his tongue on the campaign trail.

His most memorable gaffe occurred when he declared Sept. 7 to be Pearl Harbour day — three months before the actual anniversary of Japan's surprise attack on the United States in 1941 that brought the United States into World War II.

The other day he solemnly said of the voters: "It's no exaggeration to say the undecideds could go one way or another."

He once said President Reagan found the United States "in

Estonian premier offers resignation

MOSCOW (R) — The Prime Minister of Soviet Estonia has offered to resign and a special session of the republic's parliament has been called to discuss a wave of opposition to draft constitutional reforms. Estonian journalists said Friday.

Bruno Saul's offer to step down comes after a long public campaign against his rule and amid growing anti-Kremlin dissent in the Baltic republic.

The move was announced at a meeting Friday of the Praesidium of the Estonian Supreme Soviet, or parliament, the journalists said.

The Praesidium also called a special session of the full parliament for Nov. 16 to discuss widespread opposition to proposed changes in the Soviet constitution and electoral law.

The Popular Front, a radical mass movement which appears to have seized the political initiative in Estonia, has long been critical of the leadership of Saul, in office since January 1984.

The front says he is out of line with a new reformist and nationalist mood sweeping Estonia and it has complained that the draft constitutional changes do not go far enough.

Estonian Communist Party leader Vaino Valjas, whose senior party colleagues have openly expressed misgivings about the reforms, was reported to have held talks with Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev this week, the journalists said.

A campaign by the Popular Front against the proposed constitutional changes, due to be adopted by the Supreme Soviet, or parliament, Nov. 29, has won support from members of the reform-minded Estonian party leadership.

COLUMN 8

Koo Stark wins libel suit

LONDON (R) — American-born actress Koo Stark won £300,000 (\$534,000) libel damages Thursday from a British newspaper which, she said, implied she had an adulterous affair with Prince Andrew. A jury of seven men and five women made the award after the judge said they could assume that stories in the tabloid Sunday People were a "tissue of lies" and that Stark's reputation was untarnished. Stark, 32, who had a well-publicised romance with Queen Elizabeth's second son before her marriage in 1984, smiled at the verdict and avoided journalists when she left court. Her lawyer Desmond Browne said the allegations in 1985 that she indulged a "lingering love" to have secret meetings with the prince were made at a time when her marriage was in trouble and destroyed hopes of a reconciliation with her husband.

Book advises how to dispose of lawyers

MIAMI, Florida (AP) — William Shakespeare once suggested killing all the lawyers as a way to rid society of squabbling and avarice. Lawyer Bill Berger and artist Ricardo Martinez have some rather irreverent suggestions on how to dispose of the bodies. Their book, "What To Do With a Dead Lawyer" is a compilation of drawings offering various scenarios to that end. "The legal profession is inclined to take itself too seriously," said Berger. "No one is above being satirised. I thought the idea of doing horrible things to lawyers was quite funny," Berger said. "The more we went along, it seems the nastier we became," added Martinez. The drawings include a shredded corporate lawyer as part of a ticker-tape parade, a management lawyer who becomes a time-card punch for hard-hat construction workers, and a tobacco company's lawyer who becomes an ashtray.

Scorsese saddened by reaction to film

PARIS (AP) — American movie director Martin Scorsese says he is "saddened" by the violent demonstrations against his film, "The Last Temptation of Christ," including a Paris theatre fire last weekend that left 13 people hospitalised. In an interview on French television, Scorsese called his film "very religious" and added, "these acts of violence and brutality are absolutely gratuitous." Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger, archbishop of Paris, said the film was disrespectful. French authorities charged five men for the fire at the Saint Michel Theatre, one of two Paris cinemas showing the film. The fire was the most recent event in a campaign of violence aimed at frightening spectators and driving the movie out of French cinemas.

Police catch fishy politician

WEST BERLIN (R) — A man pretending to be an official of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) persuaded shopkeepers to give him huge amounts of smoked seafood and send the bill to the party, police said Thursday. The 44-year-old man, using an SPD membership card, was given about 60 kilograms of salmon and 33 kilograms of eels worth thousands of marks, which he and an accomplice sold to discotheques and restaurants, police said. Police gave no names for the pair, who were caught when a seafood wholesaler became suspicious about a 1,800 mark (\$1,000) order and called both police and real SPD officials.

Doctors find diamond in woman

ROSEVILLE, California — Doctors operating on a woman to remove a cancerous tumour found instead a small diamond she believes fell into her reproductive tract 52 years ago during the Caesarean delivery of her daughter. "That's the only way it could have happened," Virginia Argue says. "We were just opening the little tumour when we saw it," said Dr. Harold Burton, who performed the surgery on her ovary Oct. 20. "You can imagine my surprise. It's obviously not something that formed in there." Argue's husband, Rollo, said he plans to have stone mounted so his wife can wear it on a necklace. He said he called his daughter Sharron, and told her the news. "She laughed and said a lot of people are born with a silver spoon in their mouths, but she was born with a diamond," said.

Punjab violence kills over 50

CHANDIGARH, India (R) — Sikh separatists killed more than 50 people in Punjab in 24 hours, police in the north Indian state said Saturday.

They said 25 people were killed Friday in four bomb explosions which rocked the industrial town Batala near the Sikh holy city of Amritsar, a focus of the Sikh militant campaign for an independent homeland in the state.

Two more died Saturday from injuries suffered in the blasts, believed to be the work of the Sikh extremist group Babbar Khalsa. The blasts injured about 50 people.

The authorities clamped an indefinite curfew on Batala after the explosions to control rising

tensions between inhabitants. Police said the bombs were similar to three that killed 21 people Tuesday. Two went off in Pathankot and another on a bus that had begun its journey in the Punjab town.

Sikh extremists struck Friday evening at a village on the outskirts of another industrial centre, Ludhiana, gunning down 16 farm labourers. Extremists shot dead eight people elsewhere in Punjab that day, police added.

Friday's deaths take the number of victims of the separatist campaign this year to over 2,200, according to an unofficial count. The shootings occurred about 9:30 p.m. (1600 GMT), five hours after the Batala bombings.

The police spokesman in Chandigarh, who cannot be identified under briefing rules, said the Batala bombs were so powerful that many of the victims were dismembered.

Batala police chief S.H. Sharma said some of the explosives were concealed in two sewing machines left on bicycles 180 metres apart.

"They were very powerful. Some of the injured are in critical condition," Sharma said by telephone.

He said 4,000 paramilitary troops were deployed in Batala area in case of a Hindu backlash of violence.

The police spokesman in Chandigarh said the state's borders with Haryana and Jammu-Kashmir were sealed after the blasts.

Row delays Kampuchean talks

PARIS (R) — Peace talks between warring Kampuchean factions, scheduled to start Saturday, have been put off until next week after delegates quarrelled over a venue for their meeting. Western diplomats said Friday.

The planned meeting of resistance leaders Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Son Sann with Kampuchea's Prime Minister Hun Sen will now start Monday at Sihanouk's hotel residence in Fere-en-Tardenois, some 120 kilometres from Paris, they said.

Aides to Sihanouk confirmed the talks had been delayed and moved out of Paris but gave no explanation.

A flurry of behind-the-scenes diplomatic activity had sur-

rounded several shifts of venue since Hun Sen arrived in Paris Thursday to prepare for the talks, the diplomats said.

Western diplomats had said earlier in the week that the meeting, ignored by the powerful third resistance faction, the Khmer Rouge, was unlikely to provide a quick solution to the conflict.

The talks were moved to Fere-en-Tardenois Friday afternoon, the diplomats said, after some of the Kampuchean delegates rejected previous suggested venues.

Originally scheduled to take place in the hotel Crillon, where a peace solution was hammered out for the Vietnam war which ended in 1975, the talks were moved in mid-week to the former resi-

dence of Kampuchea's ambassador to France.

France put the house at Sihanouk's disposal last December.

Foreign Ministry officials declined all public comment, saying France did not recognise any Kampuchean government.

Sihanouk and Hun Sen have already met twice at hotels outside Paris in the past year to talk about ways of ending 10 years of conflict between Chinese-backed resistance groups and the Vietnamese-sponsored government in power in Phnom Penh.

Venues in central Paris were proposed for this round of talks to try to end the conflict, which has raged since Vietnam invaded its western neighbour in 1979 to oust the Khmer Rouge.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. to launch spy satellite

CAPE CANAVERAL (R) — A \$500 million military spy satellite capable of scanning 80 per cent of the Soviet Union will be deployed from the space shuttle Atlantis in late November, an aerospace industry journal said. Aviation Week and Space Technology gave the most detailed description yet of the satellite in its latest issue, according to an advance copy of the magazine. Atlantis, tentatively scheduled for liftoff between Nov. 28-30 in the second manned U.S. space mission since the 1986 Challenger disaster, is to be manned by five military officers for a secret Defence Department mission. Defence analysts and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) sources had earlier identified the shuttle's classified cargo as a large intelligence-gathering satellite.

Hispanics fight English bill

MIAMI (R) — A U.S. appeals court Friday rejected a legal challenge aimed at blocking a Florida referendum on whether to declare English the state's official language. The three-judge panel voted 2-1 to uphold a lower court ruling that the petition drive to place the referendum on the ballot paper in next Tuesday's presidential poll did not violate federal election law. Steven Zalesin, a lawyer for opponents of the ballot proposal, said they may file an emergency appeal before the Supreme Court in a last-ditch effort to stop the referendum. Proponents acknowledge that the amendment is aimed largely at Florida's fast-growing Hispanic population, who they say are clinging to Spanish and resisting assimilation into American society.

Zambia names detainees

LUSAKA (R) — Zambian newspapers Saturday published the names of six military officers and two civilians, including a former army commander and senior diplomat, who are being detained under the

country's tough security laws. The names were carried in front-page reports in the government-owned Daily Mail and the Times of Zambia, organ of the ruling United National Independence Party (UNIP). The most prominent was Lieutenant-General Christon Tembo, a former army commander who until his arrest was Zambia's ambassador to West Germany. The government announced one month ago that it had detained six military officers and three civilians for alleged subversive activities. One civilian apparently was released. Neither newspaper explained why the eight were being held and government leaders, including President Kenneth Kaunda have refused to elaborate, saying investigations were continuing.

Shots fired at Bhutto widow

LAHORE, Pakistan (R) — Nusrat Bhutto, the mother of Pakistan's opposition leader, said about 25 people were injured when shots were fired at her during an election march Friday. Bhutto told reporters in the Punjab provincial capital Lahore that she was leading the march when shots were fired from the office of an alliance opposing her daughter Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) in the Nov. 16 elections. Nusrat Bhutto, widow of executed Pakistani leader Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, said the shots were aimed at her and that she had been given no police escort for the march in Multan, about 320 kilometres south-east of Lahore. No police comment was immediately available.

WHO issues AIDS figures

GENEVA (AP) — The worldwide total of officially reported AIDS cases has climbed to 124,114, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said Friday. The ten-month total of newly reported cases this year was 29,861, compared 42,375 registered for all of 1987. But Tom Netter, a spokesman for the WHO's special AIDS programme said the 1988 total would surpass that for 1987 once all reports are in. The WHO estimates that the actual total worldwide is at least twice the reported number.



Imelda Marcos (picture left) surrounded by FBI agents enters federal court in New York Monday. Halloween spirit protests against Marcos at the court (picture right).



'Iron butterfly's' playground crumbles in rust

By Kathleen Callo
Reuters

OLOT, Philippines — Eduardo Pandavala used to carry golf clubs for movie stars at Imelda Marcos's elegant seaside resort on Leyte Island.

Now, the 37-year-old caretaker wanders aimlessly around the abandoned 45-hectare estate in Olot, the family hometown of the former Philippines first lady — who used to be known as the "steel butterfly".

Cows graze on the 18-hole golf course. Weeds hang from air vents above the Pelota court. Looters have stripped the dozen-odd houses and guest cottages.

"There were so many plants and flowers before. It was very well-tended," Pandavala said in an interview, walking past a dilapidated thatched cottage hidden by tangled weeds.

A life-size wooden statue of a saint stands on the front porch, half-eaten by termites.

Biographers say Imelda spent millions of dollars on the Olot estate, one of several family vacation hideaways.

On Monday she was arraigned in a U.S. federal court in New York on fraud and racketeering charges.

Imelda and her husband, deposed President Ferdinand Marcos, are charged with looting \$103 million from the Philippine treasury, using the

money to secretly buy four Manhattan office buildings and defrauding U.S. banks.

In December 1975, Cosmopolitan magazine described Imelda, a former beauty queen, as one of the world's 10 richest women, alongside Queen Elizabeth of England, Christina Onassis Andreadis and Queen Juliana of the Netherlands.

A childhood friend in the nearby provincial capital of Tacloban, 575 kilometres southeast of Manila, said the former first lady loved entertaining foreigners at Olot, where she would sing for them and feed them "our native food."

"She has a very charismatic personality. She was very accommodating — over-hospitable," said Severina Cam, a 60-year-old university English teacher, in an interview.

American World War II veterans who fought against Japanese forces in the Philippines and revisited their wartime landing spot last month said Imelda prepared a private party for them in Olot in 1984.

"She was a very gracious hostess," one said. "She sang 'Sentimental Journey' for us."

Now, all is quiet except for the birds and a sea breeze running through the 23 empty rooms of the one-storey wood and grey brick "rest house" where the Marcos couple used to stay.